

Keep your cold to yourself

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France edges England

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Unrest in Albania after nine reportedly killed

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Palestinians in Ramallah burn photographs of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday. Story, Page 2 (Khaled Zighari)

Levine warns Hizbullah Soldier killed Friday to be buried today

By DAVID HUDGE

Tense quiet reigned in south Lebanon yesterday, after Friday's heavy fighting in which a soldier was killed and an officer seriously wounded in an abortive Hizbullah ground assault on an IDF outpost. Sgt. Lior Shabtai, 19, of Rishon LeZion, the radio operator of a Merkava tank that Hizbullah hit with a missile, died at the scene. He is to be laid to rest at 3:30 this afternoon in the military cemetery in his home town.

Second Lieutenant Etzion Mordechai, of Jerusalem, who also was in the tank, was seriously wounded. He was evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where his condition yesterday remained serious but stable.

At least four Hizbullah gunmen were killed in the gunbattle centered around the IDF's Dabsha position in the zone's eastern sector. This brought to seven the number of Hizbullah gunmen known to have been killed by IDF and South Lebanese Army troops last week.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine warned Hizbullah against further escalating the situation by firing Katyusha rockets at Galilee communities.

"Hizbullah is threatening with Katyushas because it's in a state of distress, as a result of its casualties and by not succeeding in fulfilling its missions," Levine told reporters on Friday during a visit with the wounded soldier and his family at Rambam.

"If Hizbullah does fire Katyushas, we will know how to respond and punish it in such a way that the war will be more on the other side, rather than on our side," he said.

Friday's fighting, which continued from the previous night, began around 6 a.m., when IDF troops manning the Dabsha post spotted a Hizbullah squad in the area. The troops went to battle stations and the Merkava tank moved into an attack position and fired at the gunmen from long range.

Another Hizbullah squad opened fire at the tank with armor-

piercing missiles, one of which scored a direct hit.

An initial inquiry into the incident revealed that the troops had acted properly and quickly by moving out to hit the attackers.

"It was a ground assault [by Hizbullah]. I don't know if the aim was to reach the position or just nearby and from there try to fire [at it] with snipers and anti-tank missiles, or plant explosive devices, or a combination [of all three]," Levine said.

"These methods are known to us. The [Hizbullah] forces were located as a result of the alertness of the soldiers at the position, who acted properly. They went out to confront them, charged and killed a large number of the terrorists."

A question mark, however, surrounds the attack on the Merkava, considered to be one of the best protected tanks in the world. Military sources said the inquiry into the incident would concentrate on whether the crew had battered down the hatches and if so, how the missile managed to pierce the tank's protective armor.

The sources said experts would examine the damaged tank to try and ascertain the type of missile used, where it struck and what can be done to prevent future occurrences.

The IDF Spokesman noted that, as in recent cases, some of the long-range firing originated from populated areas north of the zone, a breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Israel has lodged a protest with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the firing on Friday from within Nabatiya township. The group is to meet at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura tomorrow to discuss the complaint.

In response to the bombardments, IDF artillery, supported by helicopter gunships, blasted Hizbullah positions. Later in the morning, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets north of the zone, in the eastern sector. The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits, and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Netanyahu: 242 applies to Golan

PM agreed to Clinton's request

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agreed to President Bill Clinton's personal request made during their White House meeting last month to recognize UN Security Council Resolution 242 - which calls for trading territory for peace - as being applicable to the Golan Heights.

According to political sources, Netanyahu added a proviso to his concession: That Israel retains its traditional interpretation of 242, i.e., that it means relinquishing some but not necessarily all of the territory. Netanyahu appears therefore to be agreeing to the idea of territorial compromise on the Golan, but not full withdrawal.

Until now, Netanyahu's position had been that talks with Syria should begin "without preconditions," although while in the opposition, he had said at times that Israel need "not keep every centimeter" on the Golan.

Netanyahu's senior aide David Bar-Ilan has said publicly that Netanyahu had never precluded territorial compromise on the Golan, but he has never said that he embraced it.

Observers believe Netanyahu will seek to blur the 242 issue publicly by noting that the Likud government is committed to the letter of invitation issued before the Madrid peace conference, which

states that all parties attending accept the UN resolution.

This formula of resuming talks with Syria on the basis of "Madrid" is what Israel submitted to the US last September, but this was rejected as a non-starter since it included no mention of any territorial concessions on the Golan.

Until now, the Likud has consistently refused to say that Resolution 242 applies directly to the Golan. Instead, it has preferred to keep the Madrid formula vague, so it could be interpreted as meaning that territory for peace might apply to some fronts - such as Lebanon in the future or Egypt in the past - but not necessarily all fronts.

Thus Netanyahu can convince his supporters that Israel's position has not changed, while at the same time giving the US leverage it seeks to privately coax Damascus back to the negotiating table after a one-year break.

US officials have been sympathetic to the idea that talks with Damascus should not start from scratch, but have not accepted the Syrian position that talks can only resume after Israel first commits to yielding the entire Golan Heights.

While Yitzhak Rabin told Clinton a few years ago that he would cede the entire Golan up to the June 4, 1967 lines - but only if Israel received adequate security arrangements - Syria insists that this was

conveyed to them by Israeli interlocutors and hence it constitutes an "agreement." They say talks must resume where they left off, but Netanyahu has pointedly rejected any return to these borders.

In a letter that then secretary of state Warren Christopher wrote to Netanyahu last September, he made clear that the US backs Israel's position that unsigned statements, no matter who made them, are not legally binding.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazzak said in response that the issue of "242 was not sharpened in Washington. Our position is that we accept the Madrid peace formula as the basis for talks with Syria."

Before leaving for Washington, Netanyahu had said he would seek a "bridging formula" as a basis for resuming talks with Syria, but has not disclosed what it is.

Meanwhile, there were reports over the weekend that Jordan's King Hussein told Netanyahu in Amman that his best chance of obtaining peace with Syria is opening links to Iraq, since Damascus would be startled by links with Baghdad.

However, this was apparently rejected by Netanyahu, who believes that Iraq must remain under UN sanctions, and any contacts with Iraq could undermine the moral basis for such international sanctions.

De Charette: Peace process key to stopping violence in Lebanon

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - The quicker that peace talks between Israel and Lebanon and Syria resume, the sooner the violence in southern Lebanon will stop, said French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, who is arriving in Israel tomorrow.

Israel is his first stop in a five-day Middle East tour, during which he also will visit Lebanon and Syria.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, de Charette said that, even if the relations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon are currently difficult, they might be capable of making progress on the road of peace.

De Charette, who met last Thursday in Paris with Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, refused to disclose whether the Syrian officials asked him to transmit any message to the Israeli government.

"Naturally, I will [relay] the report on my discussions with Vice President Khaddam and Minister Shara to my Israeli interlocutors. What I can tell you is that I am convinced that the Syrians want peace. I say that because I see in Israel debates that prove the existence of doubts [concerning Syrian intentions] in Israeli public opinion and among Israeli leaders. To think that today Syria does not want peace would be a mistaken assessment. However, it is true that the Syrians do not want to negotiate without knowing in advance on what basis the talks will start."

De Charette stressed that the only way to stop the violence in south Lebanon is through the peace process.

"The quicker peace will get on the move on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the sooner the

violence will stop," he said. "For a long time the idea that it would be possible to treat the Lebanese problem separately has persisted. I am convinced that this way offers no perspectives whatsoever."

De Charette was told by Khaddam and Shara that President Hafez Assad was in good health. De Charette will meet Assad on Wednesday evening.

In recent weeks, France has been involved in intensive diplomatic contacts with the Syrians, Lebanese and the Israelis. Before meeting Khaddam and Shara last week, President Jacques Chirac had long phone conversations with Assad and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister David Levy. According to de Charette, all these contacts not only prove the intensive involvement of the French, but also that the parties in the Middle East are becoming more and more interested in France.

Nonetheless, de Charette said, there is no specific French diplomatic initiative that will enable a breakthrough in the stalemate between Israel and Syria.

"We are not there. France does not wish to have the role of a lone rider. We are working together with our European partners, and naturally we work and want to work in tight cooperation with our American friends. We believe that France can be a useful partner in the search for peace," de Charette said.

"The fact that the Syrian president asked his deputy and his foreign minister to come to Paris, both of them together, which is an unusual thing, shows well that France is an important partner in the peace process."

The French foreign minister does not entirely share Syria's opinion that the peace process cosponsors, the US and Russia, are "lazy." But he added that dur-

Continued on Page 3

Ben-Yair: Hanegbi should resign

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi should resign until the investigation into the Bar-On affair is completed, due to his possible involvement in the affair, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday.

Ben-Yair also called for an investigation into the appointment of Hanegbi and Ya'acov Ne'eman, who was justice minister before him, and the extent of Shas MK Aryeh Deri's involvement in these appointments. Speaking on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game*, Ben-Yair said "it is not proper that a justice minister, who is in charge of bodies which should make decisions in his case, should continue in office."

Meanwhile, Shas's spiritual mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, is expected to be questioned by police in the Bar-On affair, Channel 1's Amos Abramovitz

BAR-ON

reported on Friday night.

Last week the two Shas ministers, Eli Yishai and Eli Suissa, were questioned about the affair. Deri has been questioned several times.

The police are trying to find out why Shas's ministers voted for Bar-On's appointment in the cabinet, even though Yosef told Channel 2 early last month that he had never heard of Bar-On and that he thought Shas's candidate for the post was former Supreme Court justice Tsvi Tal.

Ben-Yair noted that Ne'eman was then attorney-general, told him that the police check into Ne'eman's possible obstruction of justice in Deri's current fraud and bribery trial had turned into a full-blown investigation.

"His decision was guided by the assumption that it would not be proper for a minister in charge of

bodies which must make decisions in his case to remain in office. But I thought he should have quit earlier, as soon as it became known that a query into his conduct would be held, because the difference between a police check and investigation is very small and insignificant."

Another thing which should be investigated is the involvement of certain coalition elements - namely Shas and Deri - in the appointment of these justice ministers, Ben-Yair said.

"Shas is the third-largest party and there is no question that it is a party to talks about major government appointments. The problem is that it is headed by a man on trial for bribery."

"When such a man is partner to these talks, then the extent of his involvement in the appointment of justice ministers who could influence his trial, must be investigated."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo said the Bar-On affair exposed a situation in which the rule of law here was under a real danger, because people linked to criminal acts are involved in appointing the attorney-general.

"What appears certain at this stage is that there is a very serious story here, and this is not 'complete gibberish' [as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called the affair when it was first made public]."

Milo, a former police minister, said "I am very worried indeed. This is one of the most severe threats to have happened since the establishment of the state. It appears the rule of law is in real danger, and that parties facing criminal charges had a part in determining who the attorney-general would be, or had influence on his choice. According to the police briefing, the justice minister is involved in one way or another."

Albanian gov't falls

The Albanian government submitted its resignation late last night.

Earlier story, Page 4.

The Jerusalem Post
welcomes the
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations
Annual Leadership Mission

led by Leon Levy, Chairman
Lester Pollack and Kenneth Bialkin,
Mission Co-Chairmen
Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman

and wishes them success in all their meetings
and deliberations in Israel
and during their important visit to Uzbekistan

The Israel Cancer Association

sends its deep condolences to
Sam Sebba
on the passing away of his dear wife

Bella

Suzy Eban John Furman Prof. Elezer Robinson
President Honorary Chairman Chairman

Good-bye Babbie

from your nieces and their families who will miss you so
Jean, Shirley, Ruth, Uschi

We mourn the passing
of our dear and beloved friend

BELLA SEBBA

and extend our heartfelt sympathy
to Sam Sebba
and all members of the bereaved family.

Maurice and Vivienne Wohl



The International Board of Directors
The International Board of Governors
The Management and Staff of the
Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem

mourn the passing of

ISABELLA SEBBA י"ה

May the Almighty comfort her husband Mr. Sam Sebba,
Member of the International Board of Governors
and a devoted and generous friend
children, grandchildren and the entire family.

המקום הנשגב אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים



Bar-Ilan University

deeply mourns the passing of a great woman

BELLA SEBBA י"ה

wife of our dear friend and noble benefactor
Sam Sebba

The Bar-Ilan University family remembers Bella for
her kindness and constant friendship. As
Presidential Founders, she and Sam devoted
tremendous energy to the development of the
university, to Bar-Ilan's Institute of Advanced
Technology, and especially to the welfare of the
student body. We intensely feel the pain of her
departure, and extend to Sam deepest condolences.
Bar-Ilan University's 23,000 students and
1,300 faculty salute her memory.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President
and the entire Bar-Ilan University family

Our dear

BELLA is no more

SAM SEBBA

and all the family

The funeral will depart from Beit Hadar, Tel-Mond,
at 3 p.m., today, Sunday, March 2, 1997 for the Tel-Mond cemetery.
Shiva: Dan Accadia Hotel, Herzliya

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
husband, father and saba

CYRIL (Israel) CAMMERMAN

His wife Pearl Cammerman

Annabelle and Dan Reisinger and family
Philip and Barbara Cammerman and family
Fegle and Moshe Barkan and family
Steve and Shula Daren and family
Michel and Carolyn Daren and family

The funeral will take place on Monday, March 3, 1997, at 1 p.m.
at the new Netanya cemetery. Meet at the gates.

Shiva will take place at the deceased's home at Dankner Street 19/3, Netanya.

Husseini: Har Homa kills peace

By JON IMMANUEL

"If bulldozers are brought to the area it will mean the end of the peace process," Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian Authority's chief representative in Jerusalem, said during a protest at Har Homa yesterday.

Palestinian protests against planned Israeli building on Har Homa, which Palestinians call Jebel Abu G'neim, expanded over the weekend with more protests, planned strikes and diplomatic initiatives abroad.

In Ramallah, supporters of the opposition PLO group, the Democratic Front, for the Liberation of Palestine, celebrating last week's 28th anniversary of the organization, burned pictures of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat told a meeting of the Arab League in Cairo that if Netanyahu could unilaterally decide to build in a hitherto undeveloped part of Jerusalem across the Green Line then he could unilaterally declare statehood.



Moslem worshippers pray opposite Har Homa on Friday.

(David Rubinger)

"What would Netanyahu say to that?" he asked rhetorically.

Arafat raised the rhetoric by declaring that the neighborhood at Har Homa will cut Palestinian access to the Old City, adding that Israel had a plan to build a new Temple on the Temple Mount where Al-Aksa Mosque is today. The plan not only Judaizes Jerusalem but also Bethlehem, he said. Har Homa is closer to Bethlehem than any existing Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem. Palestinians hoped to wrest the undeveloped area from Israeli control in final status talks in order to link Abu Dis, which they consider part of Jerusalem, with Bethlehem, which is under PA control.

Arafat is to arrive in Washington today where he will meet President Bill Clinton who has cautioned the Palestinians not to resort to violence, while his administration has expressed opposition to the Israeli decision.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa is also going to Washington and will raise the issue.

"It is unacceptable globally, unacceptable internationally, unacceptable regionally," he said, warning it could lead "to the destruction of, or affect adversely, the peace process."

Even Arafat's wife, Suha, made a rare political comment, saying, "It is not just a Palestinian issue, but an Arab issue."

The Palestinian Legislative Council met in Ramallah yesterday and decided to hold a comprehensive strike tomorrow, keeping the issue before the people in the hope of deterring Israel from actually starting work on the neighborhood, which in its first stage is to include more than 2,000 units.

"Hands off East Jerusalem," "Peace or Settlement" read the emblazoned banners which accompanied several hundred marchers there yesterday.

"We are here in a campaign to mobilize our people. On the day the Israeli government will take a decision to send the bulldozers, on that day we must be here," Husseini said.

Dr. Haider Abdel-Shafi, one of Arafat's major Palestinian critics, said the problem for the Palestinians is that "when Israel does things unilaterally on the basis of its military power, nobody knows how to address the matter."

We are not a match for Israeli military power so what are we going to do?"

He said he did not advise violence, but "I think when Palestinians are subjected to this sort of aggression it is their right to defend themselves by all means including legitimate armed struggle [by which he excluded attacks on civilians], but to actually

decide on armed struggle is another matter."

He conceded that the Palestinians might now gain more by sticking to the diplomatic path. He felt that much of the protesting so far has been "a bit of a pretense" because "all Israeli settlement activities are illegal, a violation of the terms of reference of the peace process. It deprives the peace process of any meaning."

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

The LIBI Fund thanks Mr. David Azrieli

The LIBI fund recently held successful fundraising campaigns in Jerusalem and Beersheba with the active cooperation of the Canion Yerushalayim and the Canion Hanegev.

As a mark of appreciation, the LIBI Fund presented a gift to Mr. David Azrieli.



In the picture: Col. Meir Blayer, LIBI Fund Commander, presents a gift to Mr. David Azrieli.

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3. To receive the documents, one must pay the sum of NIS 3,000 by means of payment voucher, payable to the Postal Bank, Account No. 0-03897-9, payable to the "Ministry of Health, Department of Properties and Services".
For queries and further details, call Ms. Michal Be'eri, Tel. 02-670-8612 or 02-671-5570, during regular working hours.
4. Bids must be submitted at the Tender Box, 2nd Floor, 29 Rehov Rivka, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, no later than April 28, 1997 at 12 noon.
5. a. Any reservations or questions must be submitted in writing no later than March 20, 1997, at the following address: 4 Shalom Yehuda St., Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-670-8612, or Fax. 02-671-5570.
b. It will be assumed that any bidder who does not do so agrees to the conditions specified in the tender.
6. a. Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:
1) Written confirmation from an accountant regarding the bidder's business volume, in accordance with Income Tax regulations.
2) Non-refundable payment of NIS 3,000 prior to receiving the tender documents.
3) Participants in the tender must be suppliers who are a legal incorporated body with proven experience of at least five years in providing services of the type detailed in this tender, and whose gross volume for 1996 was at least NIS 20,000,000, as confirmed by an accountant's statement. A bidder may also be an Israeli subsidiary, and the requirements of this clause may be fulfilled by the parent firm, which will also serve as guarantor for the bid of the supplier.
4) A certificate stating that the bidder is a registered business for purposes of VAT must be enclosed with the bid.
5) A bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 750,000, linked to the cost of living and valid for 180 days following the last date of submitting the bid.
6) Participation in a meeting of suppliers to take place on March 27, 1997, at 10 a.m., at the Tonia Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 29 Rehov Rivka, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem.
7) The main supplier must be a software company whose employees will develop and/or update the main system (patient management) and the intermediary applications described in the tender documents.
7. The Ministry of Health reserves the right to negotiate with the most suitable bidders prior to determining the winner of the tender, in accordance with Clause 7 of the Tender Regulations.
8. The Ministry may give preference to legal bodies having the greatest experience in the services required in this tender and which have manpower with the greatest experience.
9. The Ministry is not obligated to accept the lowest bid, any part thereof, or to divide the order and give preference to experienced bidders, as specified in the conditions of the tender. Likewise, it may cancel, amend or reduce the scope of the tender in accordance with budgetary and/or administrative or organizational considerations.
10. The stipulations of the Mandatory Tender Regulations (Preference for Local Produced Goods, and the Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) regarding commercial cooperation, will apply to the winner of the tender in suitable cases.

הכזמן הקטן

Israeli Arabs protest Har Homa decision

By DAVID RUDGE

Arab local council heads are pressing for an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to protest the decision to approve the planned construction at Jerusalem's Har Homa.

In another step, the Supreme Monitoring Committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, composed of council heads, Arab MKs, and public figures, is to hold a meeting at the site on Wednesday.

Afterwards the committee is scheduled to discuss various measures by which Israeli Arabs can protest the government's decision. Suggestions include mass demonstrations in Jerusalem, protest sit-ins and even a general strike in the Arab sector.

The decisions were taken at a meeting yesterday of the Forum of Arab Council Heads, held in Kfar Manda in the Galilee. The forum issued a statement denouncing what it described as the government's settlement plans.

"The forum called for the meeting of the monitoring committee to be held at Jebel Abu G'neim [Har Homa] to see exactly what's happening, and to make decisions on measures in which the Arab public will also participate," said Abed Inbitawi, director-general of the monitoring committee.

Palestinians forced off Jordan Valley experimental farm

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF soldiers and police forced some 150 Palestinians to leave the area called the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm in the Jordan Valley on Friday afternoon.

The group of Palestinians showed up at the 380-dunam plot on Friday morning and refused to leave the area.

According to Jordan Valley Settlement Committee spokeswoman Tami Atiya, Jordan Valley Residents Committee head David Elhayani and Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Levy filed complaints with police and the Defense Ministry, claiming that troops who arrived at the scene did not intervene or try to disperse them.

Atiya said that soldiers and police forced the Palestinians to leave later in the afternoon.

when one of the Palestinians, whom Atiya claims is in charge of agricultural affairs for the Palestinian Authority, climbed on a tractor and attempted to plow the land.

The area has been the scene of several clashes in the past. Shortly before the Hebron redeployment, the IDF declared the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm a closed military zone.

The Palestinians claim that the land belongs to them, since in the Oslo accords it stipulated that all experimental farms in the territories will be handed over to the Palestinians.

Israel maintains however that the area ceased to be an experimental farm in 1988, when it was turned over to the World Zionist Organization's settlement division. In 1994 it became a part of Moshav Masua.

stability without letting it lose its force.

"It is possible, but to do it one has to admit that France can be the friend of Israel without being the enemy of its neighbors. We can have different opinions on specific subjects, without putting in question our friendship."

De Charette said that he wishes to strengthen and develop the ties with Israel in all domains, and stressed that French-Israeli bilateral relations are not completely dependant on the peace process. He expressed concern that certain elements in Israel are hostile to efforts to deepen ties between the two countries.

De Charette rejected the claim that France is pro-Arab.

"Generally speaking, our policy does not consist of being the lawyers for one side at the expense of the other side. I've always said that France wanted to have a 'middle-of-the-road' policy. It is not an affected policy, but, quite to the contrary, a policy that is attentive to the concerns of all sides."

De Charette has an aunt who lives in a convent in Abu Ghosh, near Jerusalem, whom he visits each time he travels to Israel. In 1959, the young de Charette spent three months at Kibbutz Hanita, next to the border with Lebanon.

"It gives me a great advantage over many Israelis who never went to a kibbutz. It was a period of high tension, and I still have a very emotional memory of it. It is one of the best memories of my youth, because I was full of admiration for those young people that came from elsewhere and had chosen this destiny of helping to create a new nation."

"And the idea of sharing life together, not only work, filled me with enthusiasm. It made me consider Israel as a country that was well ahead of its time. I wish Israel will always be ahead of its time and that it will always be ahead on the way to peace."

Five killed in weekend traffic accidents

Five people were killed on the nation's roads over the weekend.

Yitzhak Bukai, 66, of Kiryat Yam, was killed when another car crashed into the car he was driving on the old Tel Aviv-Haifa Road yesterday.

The other driver lost control of the car by the Pardess-Zichron Ya'acov Junction and veered into the oncoming traffic, slamming into Bukai's car. Four passengers in Bukai's car also were injured.

In a head-on collision between two cars the previous day at the same location, 15-year-old Shalom Habib, of Ashdod, was killed and several people were injured.

Firefighters, Magen David Adom workers and police came to the scene to extricate several people who were trapped in the cars and then took them to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera.

Two people were killed and several injured in an accident that occurred by Hazor Junction near Gedera on Friday when a

car tried to pass another car. The impact of the crash killed one of the drivers, while the other died later at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot.

In another accident on Friday near Omer, Gil Litvak, 23, of Omer, was killed and his friend Nimrod Ari, 21, of Omer, was critically injured.

Ari was taken to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. Police said it seems that the driver was speeding and lost control of the car.

Twelve people were injured in an accident at the Golan Junction yesterday evening when a car swerved into oncoming traffic, hitting two other vehicles. The injured were taken to Poriya Hospital. Police are investigating the accident.

A motorcyclist was seriously injured yesterday in an accident near the Shoshon Junction on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. He was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem.

(Itim)



A Magen David Adom crew rescues an accident victim yesterday on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. (Yitzhak Othman/Scoop 80)

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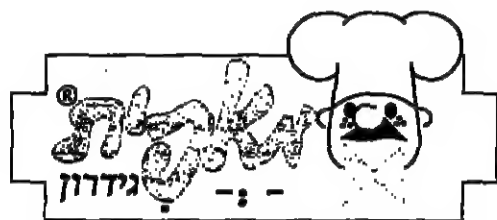
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Over 350 dead in Iran quake

Nine said killed in Albania violence

By ANWAR FARUQI

VILLADAREH, Iran (AP) — The official death toll rose to 350 yesterday in an earthquake in northwestern Iran, but villagers and aid workers helping to dig out victims said the number of dead was in the thousands.

In this poor village at the center of the damage, residents beat their chests in grief as volunteers pulled out the bodies of a toddler and three other children from under mounds of rubble a day after the quake jolted the region.

The wailing of the villagers echoed through the snow-covered valley that divides the village from the main road. Most of the houses made of mud and wooden beams were in ruins.

Aid workers put the bodies of four children recovered yesterday into a pick-up truck for the drive to the cemetery in the nearby city of Ardabil. A toddler in a blue sweater and pajamas, his face caked with dust, still clung to a small toy car in his hand.

State-run Tehran radio said the 5.5 magnitude quake struck Ardabil province, some 590 km northwest of the capital Tehran, on Friday at 4:27 p.m. The US

National Earthquake Information Center put the magnitude at 6.1.

The radio quoted officials as saying that 350 people were killed and 52 villages were damaged, including some completely destroyed. Tehran television report put the number of injured at over 1,600.

Iran is earthquake-prone and is rocked by hundreds of tremors every year, some of which cause widespread damage. Earlier this month, earthquakes and aftershocks in the northeast of the country left at least 79 people dead and more than 260 injured.

On June 21, 1990, a quake in Iran with a magnitude estimated at 7.3 to 7.7 left 50,000 people dead.

The number of dead from Friday's quake was expected to climb since many of the damaged villages are cut off by landslides and heavy snows in this mountainous region.

An Intelligence Ministry official who said he had toured some villages said the death toll was likely in the thousands.

A teacher in the nearby town of Sarain said he counted 2,000 dead from the surrounding villages taken to the cemetery in Ardabil.

VLORE (Reuters) - Albania was racked by violent protests yesterday as demonstrators clashed with riot police in Tirana hours after a fierce gun battle in the town of Vlore, where armed protesters appeared to have taken control.

Townfolk prepared to bury three slain civilians in the southern Adriatic port of Vlore, where up to nine people were reported killed in an exchange of gunfire between civilians and the Shik secret police on Friday night.

Scores of villagers erected road blocks at least five points on the only road connecting Tirana with Vlore 150 km to the south. Reporters saw a large crowd of people manning a barricade at the town of Lushnje where clashes erupted three weeks ago.

Protests escalated in the impoverished Balkan state in January after thousands of investors learnt they had probably lost all their cash in dubious pyramid savings schemes.

Furious Albanians have turned their wrath on President Sali Berisha and the ruling Democratic Party government for failing to control the investment funds.

In Tirana, some 5,000 demonstrators hurled stones at police and overturned police vehicles as they marched to the capital's university campus where they were joined by some students.

Riot police later withdrew as opposition party leaders attempted to persuade the protesters against moving towards central Skanderbeg Square.

The opposition Forum for Democracy earlier called off their planned rally in Tirana after the interior ministry withdrew permission, citing increased tension in the country.

France said it deplored the violence and urged all political parties to begin talks to end the crisis.



Thousands of Albanian protesters demonstrate in the town of Vlore yesterday, after they took control following a gun battle in which nine people were killed. Protests continued to spread in Albania over the collapse of pyramid investment schemes in January. (Reuters)

The United States Embassy in Tirana, expressing its condolences to the victims and their families, called for restraint.

In Vlore, townfolk began funeral ceremonies for three civilians shot dead in gunfire on Friday night, the fiercest confrontation in Albania since 40 died in food riots in 1991.

Reporters saw the bodies of three protesters and one Shik secret police officer in the town mortuary. The Shik said five more of its men were killed but the corpses have not been seen.

"It has been a macabre and tragic night... in Vlore," town hospital director Servet Kojdibi said. "I've never seen anything like this before in Albania." The coffin of Amir Zota, 17, was borne aloft by his friends the three km to Vlore cemetery and mourners applauded as they passed.

Aid workers leave Kisangani

KINSHASA (AP) — Aid agencies evacuated international staff from the government stronghold of Kisangani yesterday after warnings that rebels were about to attack the huge Tingi-Tingi refugee camp in the region.

Their departures leave about 170,000 refugees without the daily food distributions that have sustained them at Tingi-Tingi, 240 km southeast of Kisangani, since December and raised the prospect of another mass movement of the refugees further into Zaire as the rebel army advances from the east.

"We will not be able to return to Tingi-Tingi," Gawaher Atif, a spokeswoman for the United Nations' World Food Program, said in Kinshasa. "We're just hoping that as soon as they (the refugees) settle somewhere else, we can reach them."

Atif said the decision to pull out was made after WFP workers, on one of their usual daily flights to Tingi-Tingi to distribute food, were warned not to come back.

Peter Kessler of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said UNHCR workers reported that the refugees were folding up the plastic sheeting used for shelter and preparing to move westward in advance of approaching rebels.

About 50 non-Zairian aid workers, including those from the UN agencies and the French organizations Doctors Without Borders and Action Against Hunger, flew out of Kisangani on chartered planes.

Earlier Friday, Zairian rebels said they expected to capture the city of Kindu, 400 km south of Kisangani.

Le Pen says Chirac 'in the pay of Jews'

PARIS (Reuters) - Extreme-right French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen says he believes President Jacques Chirac is in the pay of Jewish organizations.

In a book to be published next week, excerpts of which were made available to Reuters, Le Pen says he had long asked himself why Chirac, a conservative Gaullist, was so hostile to the National Front.

"I am reduced to theories, and particularly one of them: Chirac is in someone's grasp. And whose? Jewish organizations and notably the notorious B'nai B'rith."

"In agreement with them, in exchange for enormous sums of money and pressure, and with exceptional international support, (Chirac) agreed to lose the presidential election in 1988 rather than make an agreement with me," Le Pen said.

Authors Nicholas Domenach and Maurice Szafran said they interviewed Le Pen last June for the book *Roman d'un President* (A President's Story).

The book seemed certain to cause a new furor in France, where the anti-immigration

National Front, which denies widespread accusations of racism and antisemitism, won control this month of a fourth southern town.

The authors said Le Pen had been given advance notice of their questions. The interview, ranging for two and a half hours, took place in the presence of his press attaché.

Le Pen was quoted as saying he had long believed that Chirac's "hatred" for his movement was due to "the influence of his childhood friend Jacques Friedmann, a very Jewish Jew."

He had also suspected the influence of Michele Barzach, a Jewish woman who was health minister in Chirac's 1986-88 government.

"Well, no. There is more — a real pact with these Jewish organizations. And the pact with these Jewish organizations succeeded in the end: There he is as president," he accused Chirac of pulling the entire French political spectrum towards the left by an anti-fascist attitude while ignoring the danger of communism. He said Jewish organizations had barred Chirac from denouncing Communism.

Le Pen went on to say that Chirac and his Gaullist RPR party had made a commitment to the B'nai B'rith and "other foreign societies" never to form an alliance with the National Front.

Some senior Gaullist politicians, including former interior minister Charles Pasqua, had pushed Chirac towards such an arrangement to unseat then Socialist president Francois Mitterrand in the 1988 presidential election.

Le Pen said the National Front was "shut out even though we could deliver to the RPR and the (center-right) UDF the working class popular votes which would ensure it of an enormous majority. But no, that is forbidden. Still because of the B'nai B'rith and the others."

The National Front leader said Chirac had always "persecuted" him while in power, repeatedly setting tax inspectors on him.

Le Pen won 15 percent of the vote in the 1995 presidential election. While the extreme-right press in France regularly fulminates against what it sees as a conspiracy of Jews and freemasons, Le Pen is usually more guarded in his language.

Newspaper scoops itself

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It was an unprecedented move by a newspaper — a blockbuster story put on the Internet hours before printed editions were on the street.

The decision by *The Dallas Morning News* was to report what it said was a jailhouse confession by Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh on its World Wide Web site Friday night — seven hours before print publication yesterday morning.

McVeigh reportedly told his lawyers that he helped build the bomb that blew up the Oklahoma City federal building in an attack calculated to ensure a "body count" and prove a point to the government.

McVeigh's lawyer immediately labeled the report a hoax by "the most irresponsible paper in the country." He said McVeigh, when told of the report, said: "There's a practical joker every week." The paper, however, is standing by its story.

With McVeigh's trial scheduled to begin March 31, it was the third and perhaps most controversial of three newspaper reports to suggest that the former soldier has confessed to the crime.

Was the paper trying to avoid a court order to suppress the story, or just getting the story out as quickly as possible? That depends on who you talk to.

McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, quickly complained to US District Judge Richard Matsch, saying the report violated the spirit of the judges orders that the parties in the case limit what they say about it.

"They put it on the Internet because they thought we were going to come over here and try to get a temporary injunction. They wanted to once again slap Judge Matsch and his orders across the face and pre-empt it," Jones said at the Denver courthouse.

Ralph Langer, executive vice-president and editor of the *News*, said: "We put the story on the web site because it was, in our view, extraordinarily important and we got the story finished this afternoon and we felt we ought to publish, so we published," Langer said.

FBI supervisor enters spying guilty plea

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP) — FBI supervisor Earl Pitts pleaded guilty to conspiring and attempting to sell classified secrets to Russia and the former Soviet Union, and a former CIA station chief is expected to plead guilty to spying for Russia tomorrow.

Pitts, who the second agent ever accused of spying, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit espionage and a second count of attempting to commit espionage in what his attorney said was an effort to avoid spending the rest of his life in prison.

In new defeat, Major clings to hope

LONDON (AP) — Despite a crushing special election defeat, Prime Minister John Major insisted yesterday that his Conservative Party can still win the national elections he must call within weeks.

But the latest blow pushed the odds heavily in favor of the Labor Party ousting the Conservatives for the first time in a generation.

Waving banners and blaring car horns, jubilant Laborites rode through the leafy suburbs of Writal South.

Labor, scooping up votes from thousands of middle-class Conservative deserters, won the

prosperous northwest England district in a special parliamentary election Thursday. The previous legislator died in November.

Labor leader Tony Blair, 43, called the result "superb." The former lawyer, educated at an expensive prep school and Oxford, will become prime minister if his left-of-center party wins the national elections expected May 1.

The Writal South defeat was the most ominous portent yet for Major's unpopular government, which is now a minority administration. The Conservatives have trailed Labor by around 20 points for nearly three years.

'Angels' 'Charlie aide' dies at 67

LOS ANGELES (AP) — David Doyle, the gravely voiced character actor who played avuncular assistant Bosley to three beautiful detectives on the US television series *Charlie's Angels*, died Wednesday of a heart attack. He was 67.

Doyle was best known as John Bosley, the assistant to the mysterious Charlie, who helped the scantily-clad detectives solve crimes in the hit TV series that originally starred Kate Jackson, Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett.

Unanswered questions, endless delays in Saudi bomb probe

RIYADH (AP) — The investigation of last June's anti-American bombing in Saudi Arabia has dragged on through months of secrecy, leaks and sharp words between capitals. Now it may stretch out for months more.

US military and other sources say they don't expect the Saudis to announce a conclusion to the probe until late April at the earliest, after the annual hajj pilgrimages to the Moslem holy city of Mecca.

Some people think Saudi authorities may link the findings may link Iran to the bombing deaths of 19 US servicemen at the Khobar air base, prompting a US reprisal against Iran. Thus a delay would push back any trial and execution of alleged bombers until after tens of thousands of Iranian pilgrims return home from Saudi Arabia.

One knowledgeable US military source doubted, however, that the eventual report would establish a

"solid line" tying Iran to the terror attack.

"I think it'll produce only a 'dotted line,'" said this source, a ranking officer based outside Saudi Arabia who spoke on condition he not be quoted by name.

Without conclusive evidence, a US-Iranian showdown would probably be headed off.

The lingering mystery over the Khobar bombing helps keep the US military force in Saudi Arabia on edge, wary of another attack.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't get intelligence on terrorism," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Kurt Anderson, the top US officer in Saudi Arabia. "There is intelligence that what we're doing for security is very, very proper." Since the bombing, most of the more than 5,000 US military personnel in Saudi Arabia have been consolidated at two high-security locations — a desert air base 125 km south of Riyadh and a housing

development, Eskan Village, on Riyadh's outskirts.

There has been a "90 percent decrease" in the visibility of the US military, Anderson said.

Few of the troops ever leave the two bases. Those who do wear "civvies" and sometimes body armor, ride in civilian vehicles, and drive with single-minded speed from one safe location to another.

Security is also a paramount concern at the fortress-like US Embassy. "Terrorist Incident" signs on hallway walls advise staff members to gather at predetermined locations in an emergency.

The embassy issued a fresh alert last week warning the more than 40,000 Americans in Saudi Arabia to heighten their vigilance against terrorist attack. It was prompted by remarks made by Osama bin Laden, a multi-millionaire Saudi exile described by the US State Department as a bankroller of terrorists.

Turkish press welcomes warning to Islamists

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish newspapers yesterday welcomed a set of decisions by a military-dominated council that has warned the Islamist-led government not to stray from official state secularism and democracy.

"Historic decision," flagged the mass-circulation daily *Hurriyet* in its banner headline, referring to the warnings by the influential National Security Council (NSC) after its nine-hour meeting that ended in the early hours of yesterday.

Liberal daily *Milliyet*'s headline hailed the NSC decisions, saying: "Fine tuning for the regime." It said the NSC had used strong expressions and included the word "sanctions" in its statement. "For the first time a warning for sanctions is given in NSC decisions unless the recommendations are heeded," *Milliyet* said.

The NSC said after the meeting in an unusually strongly-worded

statement that Turkey's secular and democratic system could not be compromised for any alternative system.

"Concessions must never be given on the applications of the republic's laws and constitution that guarantee the democratic system," the statement said.

The council — chaired by President Suleyman Demirel and attended by Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, ministers and army generals — met for nine hours until after midnight. Its pronouncements traditionally reflect the will of the army.

"The meeting decided to inform the cabinet of measures that need to be taken in respect to these issues," the statement said.

"All kinds of speculation that could harm Turkey's image and respect abroad and create doubts about its democracy... must be ended," it said.

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An on-line link for sick children

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

If a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down, then the availability of computers in hospital pediatrics wards eases the pain and the fear that goes with hospitalization.

For the last four years, a voluntary organization based in Jerusalem has been providing hospitals around the country with hardware, software and modem lines that enable sick children not only to learn and play, but also to communicate among themselves without having to identify themselves.

Called Kav Or (Light Line), it was established by Bilha Piamena, then deputy director and now acting director of David Yellin Teachers' College, in the capital's Beit Hakerem neighborhood. It is run from a single room at the college by Dr. Ora Aharoni, a longtime mathematics teacher and school administrator, and her assistant, Etie Lahav.

"It began when a donor to the United Israel Appeal of Canada called its director-general, Dr. Amnon Shinar, offering to give funds to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot to develop something special," recalls Aharoni, who first started working 30 years ago at the Hadassah Youth Village and then moved on to boarding schools and David Yellin. "Out of the blue, someone suggested providing computers for young patients, who have a lot of free time to think about their illness."

The second hospital after Kaplan to be hooked up was Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek, which has the country's only pediatric dialysis department; it's a place where children suffering from kidney failure must spend long hours several times a week to cleanse their blood.

The donors of laptops at the Shaare Zedek unit were the family of Ehud (Udi) Zimering, a young medic who died while trying to assist the wounded during a terrorist bomb attack on King George Street.

Most of the patients at the dialysis unit are Israeli Arabs and Palestinians suffering from familial kidney disorders.

So far, computers have been hooked up at Kaplan, Shaare Zedek, Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem and Mount Scopus, Soroka in Beersheva, and Assaf Harofeh in Tzrifin. Josephat in Eilat, Sheba at Tel Hashomer and Ha'emek in Afula are being connected.

THE REST of the country's pediatric wards have applied and their connection is in the planning stages, but depends on whether funds are available.

The cost of supplying the computers, programs and communications lines for a single hospital ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000. The main donors so far have been the UIA (Shinar has been instrumental in furthering the project), the Rashi Foundation, the Jewish Agency and private donors. There are now over 80 computers — some of them laptops for children who can't get to the computer room — used by some 35,000 patients a year.

Within days, computer rooms will be hooked up to the Internet, giving the youngsters — from pre-kindergartners through army age — access to Web sites around the world.

Kav Or was sent a letter by the Pedagogical Administration of the Education Ministry committing itself to allocating NIS 3.6 million for 1996 and 1997 for projects in hospitals, but so far, the commitment has not been met.

"We haven't received a penny from the ministry, even though by law it's responsible for educating children everywhere, including those in hospitals," says Aharoni. "But we have recently seen signs that the ministry may give us NIS 600,000." Ironically, Kav Or received the award at the Conference on Computers in Education it held in Jerusalem last year.

The Health Ministry, which owns state hospitals, hasn't donated anything. But a number of computer software companies have donated programs, and Bezeq has provided some data lines to link the Jerusalem headquarters with hospitals and with each other.

A number of volunteers, including computer experts, medical students, National Service volunteers and retired teachers help conduct the project, along with Education Ministry teachers assigned to hospital classrooms.

Some pupils at Eshel Hanassi High School in Beersheva have "adopted" Soroka Hospital's computer room, where they do volunteer work.

Aharoni reports that Kav Or had until now concentrated on inpatient wards, but since doctors tend to reduce children's hospital stays to the minimum possible and treat the majority in outpatient clinics and day hospitals, the project is aiming to computerize some of these.

"Ever since, when I do a blood test, I don't cry, because I know that in a few minutes I'll be playing with the computer, and then I don't feel the pain," says one child.

PEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT chairmen report that since the computers' installation, there has been a marked improvement in the general atmosphere and the ability of patients to cope with their difficulties. "There's a lessening of anxiety, relief from depression and a closeness formed between children who were formerly strangers."

"When I was getting chemotherapy, it was so hard for me to overcome the nausea and other side effects. But when I was offered time with the computers, I felt so much better," said Rina.

"I come here every week for blood tests. Let me tell you a secret. I love the computers. There are lots of games. When my mother told me I have to go and I didn't want to, she told me about the computers with the color screens and lots of pictures. Now when they take blood, I don't even cry," wrote Dvora.

"I have been afraid of computers since eighth grade," recalls one boy. "I didn't know exactly what to do with them. But when I was hospitalized, I had a lot of time on my hands, and the computers looked like a lot of fun. Now I know how to play games and learn on them." Many children also learn to touch-type, and color printers allow them to produce works of art to take home and give as gifts.

High-school age pupils hospitalized for long periods use the computers to catch up on material they need for matriculation exams and can consult with teachers on line.

Bracha Matatya, one of the volunteer teachers, recalls getting an anonymous message from a 15-year-old boy at Shaare Zedek. "I was so curious about him that when I went to the hospital and looked for him."

I saw him shaking with excitement over the fact that his turn with a computer was about to begin. He was an albino boy who was also a deaf-mute, but his disabilities were completely hidden by his typing into the computer."

For more information, Kav Or can be contacted at POB 3578, Jerusalem 91035 (tel. 02-655-8163) or in the U.S. at American Friends of David Yellin Teachers College, 25 West 45th Street, Suite #1403, New York, N.Y. 10036, (tel. 212-391-8636).

More hospital beds needed for premature babies

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Health Ministry is like old woman who lived in a shoe: it has a lot of children, but doesn't know what to do with them.

Over the last two decades, the ministry has approved the opening of about two dozen *in-vitro* fertilization units around the country (there's hardly a hospital without one). Most of them were authorized to open during the past 10 years. But there isn't enough room in neonatal intensive-care units for the many tiny, premature babies — often born as triplets or even quadruplets — that have been produced. An empty bed is as hard to find as a parking place at mid-morning in the center of Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

The sharp increase in multiple births and the shortage of beds in the country's neonatal units has caused a game of musical chairs, in which infants born prematurely in one hospital are transferred within hours to hospitals in the same city or in other cities dozens of kilometers away. When a bed becomes available, the premature infant is often moved back closer to home.

Hospital administrators and neonatologists are pressing the ministry to expand the number of beds in public hospital neonatal units and to revise the fee schedule for which the hospitals are compensated.

A woman from the Jerusalem area who gave birth in the 34th week of pregnancy to triplets at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus lost one of the babies, a boy, three weeks ago. For lack of room at Hadassah, the triplets were moved immediately after birth to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon and a few days later, the largest baby contracted an infection. Although she had delivered by cesarean section, she left Hadassah four days after her surgery, sleeping at a friend's home in Ashkelon and staying all day at the side of the remaining two babies in the hospital.

The woman says she doesn't blame the transfer to Ashkelon for her baby's death, and doesn't fault Barzilai for its treatment. But being separated in a different city from her husband and babies before she was able to leave Hadassah was traumatic, she maintained, and hospitals should have enough beds to care for the babies born there.

The Mt. Scopus neonatal intensive-care unit has the same number of official beds — eight — as when the unit was established 20 years ago, but the occupancy has skyrocketed and the burden on highly trained staff is heavy.

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, a gynecologist who is also director-general of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, comments that the current financial arrangements are a "disincentive" to hospitals to expand neonatal facilities, which are extremely



Premature babies often need treatment in neo-natal intensive care units.

(Jasiah Karlinick)

expensive to run, costing even hundreds of thousands of shekels for each severely premature baby.

One third of all babies in the neonatal intensive care unit on Mt. Scopus were born as a result of fertility treatments.

THE TREND is similar in other Western countries: in the US, three years ago, there were 4,594 multiple births (not including twins: 4,233 sets of triplets, 315 sets of quadruplets and 46 sets of quintuplets). This compares to only 1,005 such annual deliveries in the US two decades ago.

Previously, hospitals were "compensated" for the births of premature infants using the same set fee of full-term babies, even though treating them costs many thousands of dollars a week. This type of arrangement was also responsible for the tremendous backlog of patients waiting for open-heart surgery; it just didn't pay for the hospitals to do many operations, as each procedure cost them money.

Then the DRG (diagnosis-related group) scheme was established, paying hospitals more for complicated procedures and serving as an incentive for opening modern, expanded facilities for cardiothoracic surgery units.

Regarding the premature-infant DRG, the ministry set 1,750 grams as the cutoff: treatment of any baby

below that weight is compensated at NIS 50,000 and above that at less than NIS 5,000 — the same as a regular birth — even though such babies require extra care.

The capital's Shaare Zedek Hospital has an official standard set by the ministry many years ago for only 10 neonatal intensive-care beds, but in fact it has more than doubled the number of beds at its own expense. Shaare Zedek tries not to transfer babies to other hospitals, especially outside Jerusalem, but does have an amicable agreement with Hadassah for sending infants there when its own facility is full up. It sometimes asks women expecting multiple births to deliver elsewhere if the neonatal department is overflowing. Shaare Zedek is currently building a new mother-and-child center on its ninth floor that will offer 30 beds in comfortable accommodations instead of the current overcrowded 25.

"The problem," says Shaare Zedek Hospital director-general Prof. Jonathan Halevy, "is that we get numerous babies weighing as little as 600 grams, and NIS 50,000 far from covers the treatment which can go on for many months. Each premature-baby weight should bring with it its own financial compensation. Treating premies certainly contributes to our deficit."

Mor-Yosef urges the ministry either to raise the cutoff point to

recognize more babies as severely premature, or — even better — to raise the amount of money the hospitals receive for treating these, so they can afford to supply more doctors, nurses and equipment without having to subsidize each baby. He says he can't testify how hospitals in other cities transfer newborn premies, but "we do it in specially equipped neonatal intensive-care ambulances manned by a specialist in neonatology."

With all the *in-vitro* fertilization units nationwide (more per capita than anywhere in the world), multiple births are much more common than before. In addition, advances in saving tiny babies born weighing less than a bag of milk have helped many to survive who would have died only a few years ago. The trend of older women having babies increases the number of triplets and even quadruplets. The weight of a baby born as a triplet is about half that of a singleton. Despite this, the size of most neonatal intensive-care units remains static.

The ministry spokesman said it is preparing a plan to add hospital beds, giving attention as well to additional premature-baby unit facilities.

The problem is whether the Finance Ministry will go along: there already is a NIS 1.5 billion deficit in the health system, and these plans will add NIS 1b.

Rx FOR READERS

Catch that cold!

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

I went to work with a bad cold, and my fellow workers were upset. How infectious are colds? Must one stay away from work if one has one? If very infectious, for how long, and how can one reduce the risk of infection? N.J., Jerusalem.

Dr. Amos Yinnon, an infectious disease expert at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, replies:

In principle, cold symptoms such as coughs and runny nose are infectious, as they spread viruses via the aerosol route. But staying home when you come down with the symptoms are not an insurance policy against your co-workers getting infected: you are infectious a day or two before your symptoms appear. Thus, even if there were a rule barring employees from going to work when they have a cold, workplaces would not be protected. There is no logic in staying at home when you have a cold if you don't have a fever and are able to function. A person who suffers from a chronic illness may want to stay home and rest, and someone with the flu probably won't feel well enough to get to work.

Calm your co-workers down. To avoid infecting them, sneeze and cough into a handkerchief or your hand, but wash your hands with soap and water frequently, as viruses can infect people via direct contact with phones, door handles, etc. in addition to the aerosol route.

When can I begin to allow my three-year-old to eat peanuts, cashews, sunflower seeds and so on without worrying too much about the danger of choking? What about softer snacks like Bamba? N.K., Tiberias.

Dr. Yehozkel Waisman, director of the unit of emergency medicine at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva, replies:

Bamba and other soft snacks melt in the mouth, so they can be eaten safely by babies as young as a year old. But hard snacks such as those you mention should be kept away from children before the age of five; coordination of the swallowing mechanism is not developed enough before then, and while crying or talking, they can get them



(Sarit Uziel)

into their lungs. At our hospital, we get five to 10 such cases a year.

Is there any way to prevent swelling of the gums and cheeks following gum surgery that involves the roots? I had this a few years ago and my face was swollen for five days. I need to have it done again and am eager to avoid this, which prevents me from going to work. Y.N., Tel Aviv.

Dr. S.T., an oral surgeon at Tel Aviv University's dental school, replies:

Oral surgery such as you described inevitably causes some edema (swelling). There are many blood vessels in the area, and after trauma, they absorb liquid and swell. The larger the area involved in the surgery, the more the swelling. Swelling on the upper jaw tends to be greater than on the lower jaw, but pain is usually greater on the lower jaw than the upper. You can reduce the amount of

swelling with compresses of ice on the cheek, starting immediately after the surgery. Not all oral surgeons supply this, so you'll have to ask for it in advance. A plastic bag with ice is fine. When you get home, apply more compresses periodically for 15 minutes at a time. One can take steroid pills to reduce swelling, but these can cause side effects and may be given only under a doctor's supervision.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to jusie@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

HEALTH SCAN

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

men whose bladders are removed due to cancer can get a new lease on life through reconstructive surgery now performed in Israel. A 42-year-old teacher, the first Israeli woman to undergo the surgical technique using sections of her large and small intestines, has been able to urinate normally for over a year. So far, there have been only 50 successful operations of this type on women abroad.

Dr. Jack Baniel, head of the urology division of the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva, has performed the surgery on men for some time, but never before on women, whose different anatomy and potential problems of leakage make the procedure much more complicated.

The operation was first performed on women in California and Australia one-and-a-half years ago; it has been done on men for the last decade.

On the basis of his experience in reconstructing bladders in men, studying the medical literature, as well as watching the procedure at Indiana State University Hospital, Baniel offered the woman the option of the surgery.

She agreed to the reconstruction immediately, preferring it to an abdominal stoma, through which urine collects in a plastic bag.

The eight-hour operation went well, and two weeks later she was sent home, able to urinate normally and with complete control. Baniel says he adapted the sections of her intestine to form a bladder able to hold 600 cc. of urine.

To ensure success, the cancerous bladder must be removed while leaving intact the urethra whole, as well as the anterior

vaginal wall and the nerves in the area.

While men can undergo bladder reconstruction surgery until the age of 70, Baniel thinks it would be difficult to do it for women above 60 because preg-

nancy and deliveries cause wear and tear on the pelvis and soft tissues in the area.

The Rabin Medical Center's Beilinson Campus alone performs approximately 20 bladder removals due to cancer each

year, about a quarter of them in women. Bladder cancer is much more common in smokers than in non-smokers, but the teacher herself developed the primary cancer without having been a smoker.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION: The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Menashe, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone: 02-531-5666, Fax: 02-538-9227, CIRCULATION: 02-531-5610, Fax: 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING: 02-531-5608,
02-531-5637-40, Fax: 02-538-9408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Haemakev, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) Telephone: 03-6390333, Fax: 03-6390277.
HAIFA: 20 Nordau, Hader Hacamel, Telephone: 04-8623166, Published daily except Sunday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1997. Reproduction,
or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-
1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS,
1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
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Subscriptions E-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

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A successful visit

Official state visits by figurehead leaders to one another's countries may seem somewhat old-fashioned in the 1990s, but that of President Ezer Weizman to Britain last week proved that these rather pompous occasions may still serve a useful purpose. It was the first-ever state visit by an Israeli president to Britain – and it was both long overdue, and appropriate that it should be made by former RAF pilot Weizman.

Like the general public, the modern media seem somewhat at a loss regarding these rather formalized official visits. Unless they mark the establishment of new relations between major states, they are not really hard news, yet they can hardly be ignored. In the case of Weizman, the visit produced a typical hybrid of reporting. The president, like his hostess Queen Elizabeth, is a person of considerable stature and influence, but no mandated power. Yet he was obliged to answer tough questions on Israeli government policies deemed controversial overseas, such as the decision to build on Har Homa.

Weizman acquitted himself well in this matter. Often an abrasive man with a reputation for acerbic comment and for not suffering fools gladly, he dealt with somewhat hostile questioning with consummate diplomacy and made it clear, as he was widely quoted saying, that Israel favors the continuation of the peace process and that "all parties concerned, includ-

ing ourselves, would be stupid and crazy... to damage it." Nor was it just reporters who were critical; British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind professed himself "extremely disturbed to hear the Israeli government has decided to go ahead with building at Har Homa."

Yet, despite such pointed comments, Weizman was given a warm and genuine welcome by the queen, the government and the people of Britain. On the human interest level, Weizman's journey was reminiscent of that made by his predecessor Chaim Herzog to Dublin and London during his term – the old man's pilgrimage back to the young man's memories. When he visited the Royal Air Force, Weizman confessed: "For a minute, my mind was off the main purpose of my visit, after seeing the Spitfire and the Fokker Wulf 190 and others." Of course the main purpose of his visit was not nostalgia, but the interests of his country, and in his handling of those, Israel can be proud of him.

Queen Elizabeth, in her speech in honor of Weizman, mentioned that Jewish families have been making huge contributions to her country from the time of the Norman Kings. If there was one minor disappointment from the president's trip, it was that no firm date has been set for the British head of state to make a return visit. The perfect occasion approaches – the 50th anniversary of Israel's declaration of independence at the end of the British mandate.

Boris bounces back

There are as many opinions of Boris Yeltsin as there are facets to his character, but no one can disagree that, for better or worse, he is an amazing man. Since his heart surgery in January, followed by a bout of pneumonia, visitors to the Kremlin have been quizzed about his condition and whether he still is in control.

Whatever his true physical state, his weekend, however, about his government's incompetence in handling the national budget leaves no doubt that his mind is as sharp as ever and it would be an unwise minister or opponent who writes him off as another fading Brezhnev.

In a brief but acid radio address, Yeltsin yanked Russian heads out of cloud-cuckoo land to tell them some harsh truths. It was a performance of political honesty in the face of reality which should shame most of the smooth and insipid media-groomed politicians we are plagued with in the Western democracies.

Making no excuses, Yeltsin admitted signing the 1997 budget only to prevent political chaos, but that the document is an economic lemon. He told Russians it is an unattainable botch-up –

probably the first honest assessment of the state of his country's economy since he became ill last year, and a refreshing contrast to the bad old days of inventive five-year plans that always worked perfectly on paper.

Yeltsin said signing the budget "did not come easily to me since there are major doubts about many key items." One particular piece of wishful thinking was the setting of revenue collection for 1997 at 16 percent of GDP. Most experts agree revenues amounted to not much more than 10 percent in 1996 and the new projection was clearly an unsubstantiated figure plucked from the air.

Yeltsin's broadside on his own ministers is all the more remarkable since the improvement of tax revenues is a key issue in the 1997 economic program the IMF is negotiating with Russia. The IMF said last week that payment of a \$320 million installment is out of the question until revenues improve. With Yeltsin apparently back in such sharp form, Russia's friends and helpers overseas can at least be sure they will get straight answers to their questions. That's as much as one could wish for in any politician.



Eternally grateful

LEOPOLD G. KOSS

I was toward the end of August 1942 – I recall it vividly, though I can no longer remember the exact date – that I crossed the French-Swiss border illegally, on foot.

The border, in this case, was the crest of a mountain, Cornettes de Bise, elevation about 2,600 meters.

How and why I had decided to seek refuge from the Nazis in Switzerland belongs to another story. Suffice it to say that the odds of being arrested in France as a Polish Jew and former soldier, and sent to a German concentration camp, were extremely high.

After I had tried, and failed, to reach England through Spain, Switzerland appeared the only country of refuge available at that time.

On the way to my destination, I had heard that although the official policy of the Swiss government was against accepting refugees (and that many, including some friends of mine, had been returned to France or delivered into the hands of the Gestapo), there had been a recent swell of public opinion pushing to open the borders.

In fact, a woman – I never learned her name – on the train to Thonon, near the Swiss border, perhaps guessing my destination, handed me an article in the *Journal de Geneve* that had been published some days before. It openly exhorted the government to open the country's borders to the victims of the Nazi persecution.

Similar articles had apparently appeared in the German-Swiss press, notably the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, but those I had not seen. It must be remembered that at that time, the Holocaust was still a well-kept German secret.

I entered Switzerland without difficulty through the unguarded mountain peak, and was soon several kilometers inland, relieved at not having been molested.

Exhausted, hungry and thirsty, I made my way into the barracks of a military unit about 10 kilometers from the border, and declared

myself a refugee.

I was fed and offered a cot to sleep on. The soldiers, simple Swiss citizens, couldn't have been friendlier.

The next day I was formally arrested and sent to the police station.

I knew another Switzerland, very remote from the image of collusion now being painted

tion in the small city of Martigny, where I was put in jail.

Eventually I was interrogated by a police officer, who promptly informed me that I would be sent back to France as an illegal alien. However, I requested that he listen to my story, which he did. I told it through tears.

When I was finished, he offered to consult the authorities in Bern and inquire what should be done about me.

I discovered shortly after, that in that same Martigny jail there was a whole group of at least 30 other men, all in the same predicament as me. We were all treated with great consideration by the police and the guards.

A few days later, we were apparently accepted as refugees and sent to a camp for political refugees established on the grounds of a penal institution, Belchasse (a sort of Sing-Sing) in Sugiez-les-Vernes, in the Canton of Fribourg.

I spent several months in Belchasse, followed by several months in a labor camp in Aesch-Birmensdorf, near Zurich.

It was hardly luxury – but it was safe. My only wish was that my parents and my only sister, who had stayed in Poland, could have been there with me. They all per-

ished. In September 1943, I was allowed to resume my medical studies at the University of Bern, in the Swiss capital.

During the three-and-a-half years I spent at the university, I was never asked to pay any tuition fees. The administration of the university, my professors and my colleagues were all extremely considerate of my penury and sensitive to my loneliness, and offered what they could in moral, and sometimes monetary, support.

The federal police, to whom I had to report on a weekly and then monthly basis, became increasingly friendly as the fortunes of war changed.

In fact, as I was leaving Switzerland for America in 1947 to start a new life, they sent me their last communications, in which they addressed me as "doctor" – a designation I considered a vast improvement over my previous title of "refugee."

In conclusion, the Swiss not only saved my life and that of approximately half-a-million others, they also gave me an outstanding education that allowed me to forge a successful scientific career in the United States.

I am now 76 years old, and remain eternally grateful to the Swiss people for what they did for me and so many others.

Last October, as a token of my appreciation, I established a lectureship at the University of Bern through the courtesy of the Abelin Foundation, an association of its former medical students.

My hope is that, though this lectureship, I can convey to my Swiss friends, and to others, that I remember another wartime Switzerland, one far remote from the dreadful image of greed and collusion with the Nazis now being painted.

The writer is professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Pathology at the Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.

Body & soul

LARRY DERFNER

By now most Israelis know that Har Homa is part of Jerusalem – the unified, indivisible capital of the Jewish people under eternal Israeli sovereignty, amen.

A little while ago, they probably couldn't have said if Har Homa was in Jerusalem, or if it was one of those new neighborhoods being built in Ashdod.

Likewise, if you ask the average Israeli if Sur Bahir, Umm Tuba and Jebel Mukaber are Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, or Palestinian villages in the West Bank, or Israeli Arab towns in the Galilee, do you think he knows?

But ask him if Jerusalem should remain the unified, indivisible, etc., etc., and he'll answer: "What, are you kidding? Of course!"

Supposedly there's a holy consensus over Jerusalem in this country, but it seems to rest on ignorance, conformism and bravado.

This slogan that everybody rattles off about Jerusalem has taken on the character of a Jewish loyalty oath.

Any Jew who won't recite the lines (by the way, does "eternal" come before "indivisible," or after?) must be some sort of traitor. We are not allowed to think about Jerusalem, to consider whether we really have to hold onto every last inch of it, whether there is some part, any part, that we could let the Palestinians have for the sake of peace.

No, we have been trained to think of Jerusalem in all-or-nothing terms. If we show the slightest flexibility, we'll lose everything – the Western Wall, the Knesset, Rehavia. A half-million Jews will be forced to flee the city, or come under the iron heel of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

This is a convenient illusion; it makes it easy not to think about compromise.

And if anybody insists that the issue is not whether to take Jerusalem away from Israel, but

We talk as if we only want what's best for Jerusalem. But we're really being possessive

whether to give a part of it to the Palestinians – a part where only they live, a part of the land that Israel conquered in the Six Day War – we have answers for that, too: Redivide Jerusalem? Tear her asunder, scar her with barbed wire fences again?

WE'VE attached human characteristics to the city, learned to think of it as the body of the Jewish people which, before 1967, was broken and waiting in agony until we came along and made it whole and happy again.

This image, too, is politically convenient.

We talk as if there's something selfless about our stand on Jerusalem, as if we just want what's best for her: to keep her liberated and unified, eternally.

But in truth our attitude is the opposite of selfless – it's utterly possessive. It says Jerusalem is only wondrous if we have complete dominion over it.

This is love for ourselves, not for Jerusalem: Only we are worthy of her, all of her, and nobody else.

But when we come out of this fervor and think of Jerusalem not as our betrothed, but as a city where Jews and Arabs live separately, then we become a lot more reasonable.

More than one recent poll found that when Israelis were informed, or reminded, that the post-1967 side of the capital includes all Arab villages and neighborhoods, suddenly Jerusalem wasn't so indivisible to them anymore. The mighty consensus fell apart.

This is familiar. Not too long ago there was a taboo against suggesting that we negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization; now the idea of breaking off those negotiations is considered extremist.

The Golan Heights used to be off-limits in the political debate; now most Israelis would divide it with Syria for a peace agreement.

After the government's decision to build 6,500 Jewish homes on Har Homa, we were reminded that the whole world is against us on Jerusalem. When the Palestinians say they're ready to share it, and we say we want it all, we can't do anything but lose.

There's no peace this way. Is it worth fighting and dying so we can point to the Israeli flag flying over A-Tur and Issawiya?

Enough with slogans; on Jerusalem, we have to dare to think.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ORTHODOXY

Sir, – The recent wave of controversy regarding conversions to Judaism is absolutely unintelligible. If anyone wants anything badly enough, that is with all his heart and soul, he will go the extra 10 yards. I cannot conceive that anyone wanting to convert to Judaism would choose any route other than Orthodox, especially since it is Orthodox which has preserved the Jewish people throughout centuries of persecution.

What Orthodox contributed to mankind in moral and spiritual values is unprecedented by any other people in the world. How does one want to adhere to Judaism, but on lesser terms than basic Judaism requires? How does one say I want to be Jewish, but I don't want to keep the Sabbath? I don't want to enjoy a Friday night meal with my family and friends, go to the synagogue, spend my every Saturday eating, reading, talking and strolling with my wife/husband, children and friends. I prefer a Judaism which allows for business as usual. Like driving, gambling, going to the movies, eating out, shopping. In other words, I want a Judaism which permits me to do as I damn well please. The example of Shabbat is just one of many.

If that's the case, why convert? The Orthodox rabbis should make it difficult. The difficulty measures a person's sincerity. If money be part of that sincerity, then so be it. Who works and teaches for nothing? Even an Orthodox rabbi has to make a living.

RUTH DRAN
Jerusalem.

BROAD-MINDED APPROACH

Sir, – As a lesbian – and proud of it! – I join my fellow lesbians and gays in commending *The Jerusalem Post* for its broad-minded approach to our two social sectors.

If Sephardi Chief Rabbi Bakshi-Doron sees our lifestyles as an "abomination," that is surely his problem, not ours. We hope President Weizman has learned his lesson.

IRMA ERLANGER

Jerusalem.

THE RETURN OF OUR MIAS

Sir, – The *Post* recently published an article by Esther Wachsmann which was chock-full of sad facts, and yet written with much restraint. Among other things, she mentioned the lack of sensitivity in returning the body of her son's murderer to Gaza, our failure to incarcerate the man who planned her son's murder, the release of yet more prisoners with blood on their hands... Where is the much anticipated reciprocity? There can be no doubt that the price goes up each time we act so inhumanly towards Jews, in terms of our integrity, and our spiritual and physical wholeness.

And now, I hear the weary voice of Mr. Baumel on the radio, speaking of promises made, and more prisoner releases and territorial concessions and yet no sign of his son. I cannot help but cry tears of frustration when I hear such things, such self-imposed injustice. Indeed, the situation is complicated; but we too have the right to make demands and to cry in front of the "world tribunal" over our lost sons.

The time is way overdue for Israel to take a strong stance on this issue. Our government must declare now that there will be no more concessions, and no more prisoner releases until the whereabouts of Yehuda Baumel, Ron Arad, and all our other precious sons are fully accounted for, and they are returned to us, alive and well, or God forbid, not alive. As our elected leader, Prime Minister Netanyahu does not have the moral right to decide their fate through passivity or through fear of lack of sympathy on the international front. They must be our priority, because each of them is of infinite value.

Before his election, Binyamin Netanyahu seemed to exhibit a perceptive understanding of Israel's position, including its spiritual underpinnings, and of the dynamics of the Middle East and the Arab world. True peace may be long in coming, but this can be his clearly stated goal and legacy now, the return of our missing sons.

LINDA FRIEDBURG

Neveh Daniel.

NEXT WAR

Sir, – Wisdom from the mouth of cabdrivers: recently, one said: "War now will cost maybe 5,000 casualties. But we will win. If we wait five years, it will cost 50,000 casualties and we will lose the war as well."

I suggest that our prime minister, ministers, deputy ministers and Knesset members travel by cab and listen to what the drivers have to say.

MOSHE BRODETZKY
Jerusalem.

OUTRAGED PENSIONER

Sir, – Kudos to Seymour Brodsky who put into print the despicable and immoral act of the members of our Knesset to disenfranchise seniors of Israel from the few crumbs that were thrown to them before the election (Letters, February 7). To cap the indignity of taking food from the mouths of elderly needy, these same morally deficient MKs voted themselves a whopping salary increase. Are these the people we turn to implement justice here?

May I suggest to these arbiters of justice that they restore immediately the benefits given the the seniors' and I am referring specifically to the TV fee and the *armona* discount which they are entitled to, otherwise 700,000 seniors in this country will suddenly rise from their apathy and the MKs will be the first target.

Ninety percent of volunteer work is done by senior citizens; so just picture hospitals, museums, community centers and hundreds of other areas where volunteerism is absolutely essential if they find themselves obliged to pay for the same help. Also remember that before you know it, it's voting time again and these people who were cast aside before will not forget. I for one hereby dedicate myself to reminding 700,000 seniors that we are almost 15 percent of the population and will not be pushed around any more.

BEN GERBER

Ashkelon.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's Jeanne Calment's birthday again. The oldest person in the world, Calment celebrated her 122nd at her nursing home in Arles, France last week. (AP)

POSTSCRIPTS

A MILWAUKEE teenager was charged with setting fire to his family's apartment while his two younger brothers were inside, apparently because he was angry that they got Christmas presents and he didn't.

His brothers, aged 7 months and 5 years, were rescued by neighbors, but 13 people were left homeless.

In addition to not getting Christmas presents, the boy was upset because his parents told him

he had to move out after he turned 18.

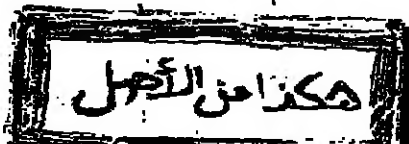
He turned himself in to police on his 18th birthday.

A BELGIAN whose father said earrings were for girls chose to ignore his advice and, with 138 rings through different parts of his body, now claims the world record for body piercing.

"Bodies are a bit like a district full of houses. At first they all

look alike. Then people put on green curtains, others red, some- one plants lilies, others roses. Piercing is basically the same, it customizes the body," said the bald and paunchy Alex Lambrecht, 47, who is tattooed from head to toe.

He took up piercing after he got divorced and lost his job, adding that he never removed all his rings. "It's been 10 years since I've been totally naked," he said.



Can this man sell lofty journalism to the masses?

By ELEANOR RANDOLPH

The front wall of the *US News* and *World Report* building is glass, a fragile housing for the magazine's new editor, James Fallows, who spent most of last spring throwing stones at his colleagues in the media.

Fallows's best-selling book, *Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy* (Pantheon Books, 1996), criticized many of his fellow journalists for becoming too rich, too egomaniacal, too pompous, too greedy, too simplistic and too negative. He concluded that: "The institution of journalism is not doing its job well now."

So, last September, *US News* owner Mort Zuckerman gave him the chance to do it better. Now, after editing 22 issues, Fallows has undoubtedly found that it's easier writing books than editing the nation's third-largest news weekly.

The merciless Friday deadlines, the sassy new hires at odds with the serious old guard, the workers grousing from below and the steady trickle of staffers to other news organizations and the Washington media establishment rooting for him to fail — it's not exactly the glory life for a 47-year-old journalist-cum-intellectual.

"This will probably not be my life's work," a tired-looking Fallows said at the end of a long interview recently. "I'm doing this at a pace that could not last long, you know, mentally or physically, and [Zuckerman] and I have an understanding that for a certain number of years I will do this and then I will do something else. You know, I will take enough time to make a difference, to take the magazine up its next step in its evolutionary chain."

For those interested in the *US* media, this evolution bears watching.

As one magazine executive puts it, there are two big questions for Fallows, who has never before run a large popular newsmagazine. First, can he manage a big staff, and second, can he sell his lofty journalism to the masses?

It is a challenge that Fallows apparently understands: A picture of a Tyrannosaurus Rex hangs on his office door with a caption that reads, "Innovate or die." Fallows predicts that it will take a full year to see his innovations, but already there are signs that the magazine and its culture are evolving.

Although Fallows suggested in his book that journalists might look at a new and controversial trend called "civic journalism" or civic-minded journalism, so far the most noticeable change outside Washington may be that *US News* seems to be mutating into *US Times*.

Insiders at the magazine worry that the old-fashioned reporting

that was once the mainstay of the publication is no longer good enough. A successful Fallows story must be well-argued, like a legal brief. It has to have a theme, an angle, a coherent analysis, even an opinion. "Good lord," said one horrified reporter, "he is letting the chattering classes take over the magazine."

"Innovate or die" is the motto of James Fallows, editor of the world's largest news weekly.

"It's *Atlantic-Lite*," said another, referring to *Atlantic Monthly*, where Fallows worked for 17 years before taking over *US News*.

What Fallows has said — not only in his book but in his chaty memos to the staff — is that he wants to move away from political battles that miss the underlying issues or foreign stories that don't bring home their impact on the ordinary reader.

A piece called "Santa's Helpers," for example, explained how Third World slave labor produced many of the shiny new toys under America's Christmas trees.

Tabloid-style scandals about celebrities, violence and sex also should be avoided, Fallows has preached in his gospel of issue-oriented journalism.

The pieces that have been given some of the best play in the magazine and some of the most praise from Fallows have been heavily "themed" more than they have been doggedly "reported," as *US News* staffers describe the changes from pre-Fallows days.

One piece, for example, was a long discussion about how Bill Gates was being tortured by the federal government. Another, titled "Albert the Brainiac," argued that Vice President Al Gore is an intellectual.

FALLOWS, who grew up in Redlands, California, remembers picking oranges as a summer job as a youth — an experience that taught him one major lesson, as he wrote in a recent memo to his staff: "It is important to go to college."

Fallows went to Harvard, where he was editor of the *Harvard Crimson*. In the summers he worked for Ralph Nader.

After studying economics at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, Fallows joined the staff of the *Washington Monthly*. There, he wrote an emotional piece about why he and his peers avoided the draft for Vietnam, leaving the poor

and less privileged to serve and die.

Shortly afterward, President Carter hired him as his chief speech writer.

From the White House staff, it would have been an easy launch into politics or even business, but Fallows left before the end of Carter's term and wrote about what he thought was wrong with the president's character. The president micromanaged, from the Middle East to the White House tennis courts, Fallows revealed.

The piece hit the Carter camp like a hurricane, and many Democrats still believe it contributed heavily to Carter's devastating loss to Ronald Reagan in 1980.

It is a background that would be hard to be humble about, and Fallows apparently isn't. For anyone who wants more detail about him, the *US News* editor has a home page on the Web. It is called, "Fallows Central: the Work and Links of James Fallows" (<http://www.net/pub/rothman/fallows.htm>).

Its contents are so unusual, especially for a man who has criticized the media for self-promotion, that the *Weekly Standard* did a parody called "The Sayings of Archbishop James."

In it, a pretend Fallows explains how, "with a sense of austere yet bland high-mindedness," he assumed the title as editor of *US News* where, among other changes, he would quickly convert the magazine's successful "News You Can Use" section into "Human Imperfections and How to Eliminate Them."

In reality, Fallows works 12 hours a day trying to eliminate such imperfections as bad layouts, flaccid prose and faulty grammar.

Take the Great Comma Debate, which took place over the Christmas holidays: Fallows asked his staff to comment on whether a sequence of nouns needed a final comma — as in apples, oranges, and pears. The response covers many days and a number of pages.

In the end, the decision was made to go with Fallows's own view — that a second comma was necessary.

But included in the responses was an anonymous message that summed up the comma controversy this way: "All great editors must be idiosyncratic bordering on loony [a good kind of loony — ed.]." If Fallows turns out to be a great editor, then the parodies, comma debates and even bitter criticism from the establishment press won't make much difference.

"If the magazine is good, it won't matter if some people don't like me," he said. "If the magazine is bad, it won't matter if people do like me."

"This is a place where the real test is 50 issues a year."

(Los Angeles Times)



From Catherine Steinmann's exhibition 'Pregnant Nudes'

(Catherine Steinmann)

ON CAMERA

Pregnant pauses

By DAVID BRAUNER

Catherine Steinmann takes photographs of pregnant women in the nude. She is in Israel, on her 15th visit, for the opening of her first exhibition here of *Pregnant Nudes*, presently showing at the Lemberger Museum of Photography, Tel Hai.

Steinmann's photography is art exploring form, movement and lighting. Her inspiration happens to be women in their ninth month of pregnancy. "I love that stage, it's very special, so short; it has a lot of meaning for me," says Steinmann, herself the mother of three. "I am looking for something different in each subject that comes in, particularly in the shape of the belly."

Steinmann, 50, was born in Paris. After much travel, including a stint on a kibbutz as a volunteer, she settled in New York in 1968, where she worked in the fashion industry. Around 1979, a friend lent her a Nikon camera. "The minute I saw the magic coming out of the chemicals," she said, "this is for me and that was it." Steinmann gave up fashion and spent the next 10 years "taking every single course" she could, mainly at New York's International Center of Photography under the directorship of Cornell Capa.

In 1983, Steinmann was taking a course in lighting. She asked her niece, who was eight months pregnant at the time, to model for her. On showing the prints to her class, one of the ladies, also pregnant, was so intrigued with the work that she asked to have her pictures taken. More importantly, she offered to pay. "The minute

somebody pays you, you become a professional."

Today, her home bedroom-transformed-into-a-studio welcomes an international clientele, some famous, but also many working women. Steinmann works completely alone, adjusting lighting, moving props, posing her subjects. "It's an intimate session, between mothers."

"Sometimes the woman is not so beautiful," says the photographer candidly, "but being pregnant is a beautiful stage in a woman's life." Her studies transform "bloatedness" into an art form that galleries are keen to show, and museums worldwide are buying. (Steinmann notes that none of her nudes are shown in public without a written release.) At first her subjects are nervous. Undressing "is a moment of extreme vulnerability," but usually after about 15 minutes the women begin to relax. "I let them talk about their pregnancies. We laugh a lot."

The actual photography lasts no more than two hours. The lights are hot, especially in summer, and women in their ninth month are in a delicate state, explains Steinmann. However, it takes three hours to prepare a session: The photographer herself washes, irons and arranges all the bed linen and keeps the studio "spotlessly clean." She will then spend the next four to five days in her darkroom meticulously printing the black-and-white images that will make up the portfolio.

Steinmann is a master printer who engages in the rare platinum-palladium process, and a self-confessed perfectionist. Her fees are modest, in the hundreds of dollars. "I am more concerned about taking pictures and making the client

happy rather than charging an incredible bundle and only working twice a year."

Asked why women want photographs of themselves in their ninth month, Steinmann answers with many examples. "Often it is a second child, because the first asks, 'Where did I come from?'" Seeing the pictures of the mother's swollen form satisfies the child.

Others want pictures of themselves "for the record." One expectant mother came to Steinmann's studio because she lost her husband and child in a car crash the year before. Even though she was pregnant again, "her sadness was reflected in the photos."

Mothers often return to Steinmann once their babies are born for the "after" pictures. She is following up one set of triplets every five months.

Steinmann's photography is not restricted to nudes or black-and-white. She enjoys taking pictures of New York architecture. An exhibition of her architectural work is currently on show in Prague. Steinmann freely gives of her time to lecture and present workshops, and she has organized a support group for professional women photographers. "I feel strongly that as a photographer I should help others who may not have the experience I have. I made every mistake in the book when I started. I would like to cut years off work for somebody else."

Catherine Steinmann's e-mail is cah48@aol.com. Her book *Pregnant Nudes* is available from the Lemberger Photography Museum, Tel Hai, Tel. (06) 695-0769.

Arab TV: Our heroine was Syrian, not Jewish

By TOM GROSS

A leading Arab television network has decided to put an end once and for all to the persistent rumors that Zenobia, the legendary heroine of third-century Syria, was actually Jewish.

Bassam Malla, director of a new 22-part drama depicting Zenobia's rebellion against Rome, said: "Some members of the International Zionist movement who masquerade as historians claim that Zenobia was Jewish."

"We wanted to tell them that she followed the Syrian religion of her time. She was 100 percent Arab."

The series, which is broadcast on the Saudi-owned satellite station, MBC, has tens of millions of viewers glued to TV sets in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and elsewhere in the region, according to a recent report in the London *Sunday Telegraph*.

Following the assassination of her husband, King Odenathus (in which she is believed to have played a part), Zenobia succeeded to power as queen of Palmyra (now Tadmor, Syria).

Within three years, she extended her rule to all of Syria, as well as to most of Egypt and Asia Minor.

After falling out with Rome in 271, she made a defiant but unsuccessful stand as the Romans besieged the city of Palmyra.

In ancient times she was regarded as a "second Cleopatra" because of her beauty, energy, political acumen and lavish lifestyle.

Malla, the director of the new drama, implied that the modern-day successor to Zenobia is none other than Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Malla said he hoped the film would educate young Arabs about their own history, and also serve as a message to Arab leaders that they should stay united in

their fight against the Israeli enemy.

"Zenobia was betrayed by Arab tribes," he said.

"The dispute between Zenobia and the Arab tribes led to the destruction of Tadmor. Today, we have the same kind of dispute among the Arabs. If we continue like this, we could also be destroyed."

According to the *Telegraph*, the message seems to be getting through.

The paper reported that during scuffles with Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem last month, some Palestinian youths were heard to cite Zenobia's daring lines from the TV series.

The *Encyclopaedia Judaica* cites several scholars who

believe Zenobia was Jewish, and a recent book by a Western historian refers to a Jew at Palmyra called Zenobius.

Other accounts talk of Zenobia paying for the restoration of a synagogue in Egypt.

But many scholars discount claims that Zenobia was Jewish, and Gibbon believed she was Greek.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Bird without feathers

By DVORA BEN SHAUL

A reader in the North writes: "We have a sulfur-crested cockatoo we bought about six years ago. For the first five years, it seemed just fine, ate well and was friendly. Over the past year or so, it has lost almost all of its feathers, except those on its head and upper neck."

"We have taken it to a number of veterinarians, and they gave us all sorts of vitamins and ointments, and said the condition was probably nutritional."

It was checked for all sorts of parasites, but was found to have none. We simply do not know what to do."

The fact that it still has feathers only where it cannot reach suggests that the bird is plucking its feathers out itself.

The chances are that the bird is suffering from a psychological condition, rather than from malnutrition or parasites.

This does happen in caged birds of the parrot family, but only a veterinarian who is experienced with these problems will be able to advise you. Take your cockatoo to the veterinarian at one of the large zoos, either Safari in Ramat Gan or the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo.

Remember that parrots are extremely intelligent and that they have and display a very wide range of emotional responses. I knew of an African gray parrot which decided that the family's son, who had just gone into the army, was a baby bird and kept trying to feed him by poking food into his ear.



Parrots are the world's most gregarious creatures. (Vered Peres/IDPA)

Situations like this are basically sad because they bear witness to the torture we inflict on such a bird by denying it the company of its own species and by thwarting all its natural instincts.

PARROTS ARE among the most gregarious creatures in the world, and their need to be with people all the time is simply a substitute for the normal, noisy parrot community which is their natural habitat.

If you see cockatoo colonies in the wild, you will notice that dozens of pairs of these beautiful birds choose to live and nest crowded into one small area, ignoring vast amounts of empty nesting sites around them.

It is unlikely that providing it with the company of another bird

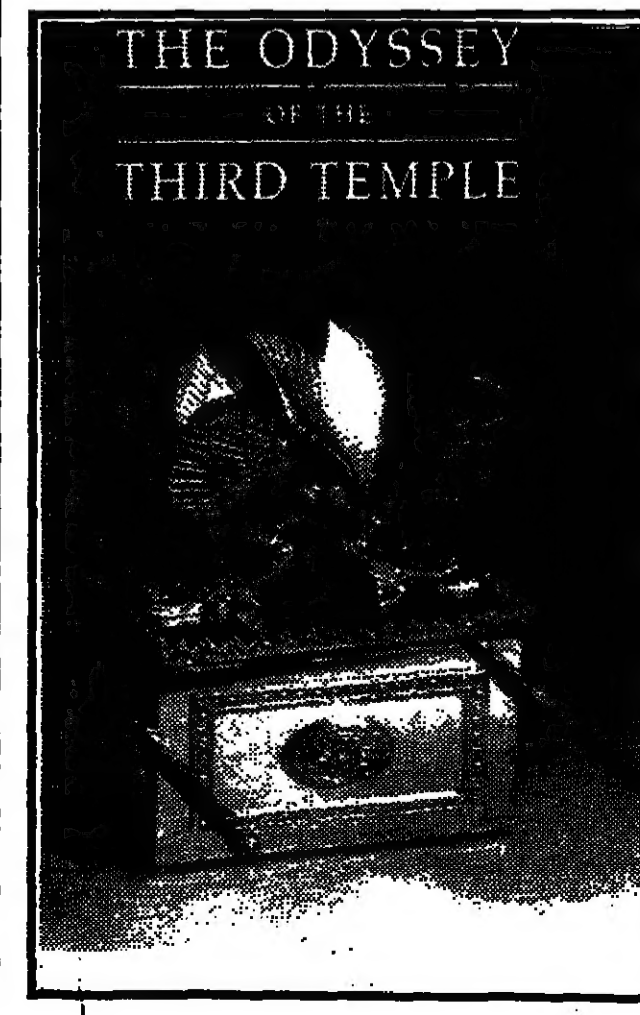
would do any good now; it's doubtful the bird would even recognize another parrot as a member of the same species, so certain it is that it belongs to the human community.

Until you get the bird to an expert, there's little to do see that it has constant company. If you have to leave it alone, even for a few hours, leave a radio or TV turned on nearby.

Parrots have superb color vision and enjoy watching the small screen.

The phenomenon described here is not rare. Many caged birds and mammals show this type of aberrant behavior.

They are simply human-created misfits which have lost their place in the natural order of things.



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مكتبة الانجیل

Magic still perfect with new coach

Knicks win 3rd OT in 6-game road trip

ORLANDO (AP) — Penny Hardaway scored 20 points as the Orlando Magic extended its season-high winning streak to six games with a 94-73 win over the San Antonio Spurs on Friday.

The Magic remained unbeaten under coach Richie Adubato, who replaced Brian Hill on February 18 and had the word "interim" removed from his title before the game.

Hardaway was 7-for-12 from the field and had five rebounds and eight assists for Orlando.

Dominique Wilkins scored 19 points for the injury-depleted Spurs, who have lost nine of their last 10 games.

Hawks 86, Lakers 75
Dikembe Mutombo, taking advantage of Shaquille O'Neal's absence, scored a season-high 27 points and Steve Smith hit two key 3-pointers down the stretch as the Atlanta won at home.

Mookie Blaylock also scored 27 points for the Hawks, who limited the Lakers to 35 percent shooting in winning their third straight game.

Los Angeles, second in the Pacific Division, has lost five of eight since O'Neal suffered a hyperextended left knee last month. He is likely to be out at least for the rest of the regular season.

Knicks 112, Nuggets 108 (OT)
John Starks scored 23 points, including seven in overtime, as the road weary New York Knicks held off Denver.

Starks' driving layup with 52 seconds left broke a 106-106 tie, and he and Allan Houston each hit clinching free throws in the final 16 seconds to send Denver to its second straight overtime loss and sixth overall.

Despite missing six of his last seven shots, Patrick Ewing finished with 22 points. Larry Johnson added 21 for the Knicks, who finished a six-game, nine-day road trip 4-2, with three wins coming in overtime.

Charles Oakley had 10 points and 18 rebounds for New York, which played without starting point guard Chris Childs, out with a bruised wrist.

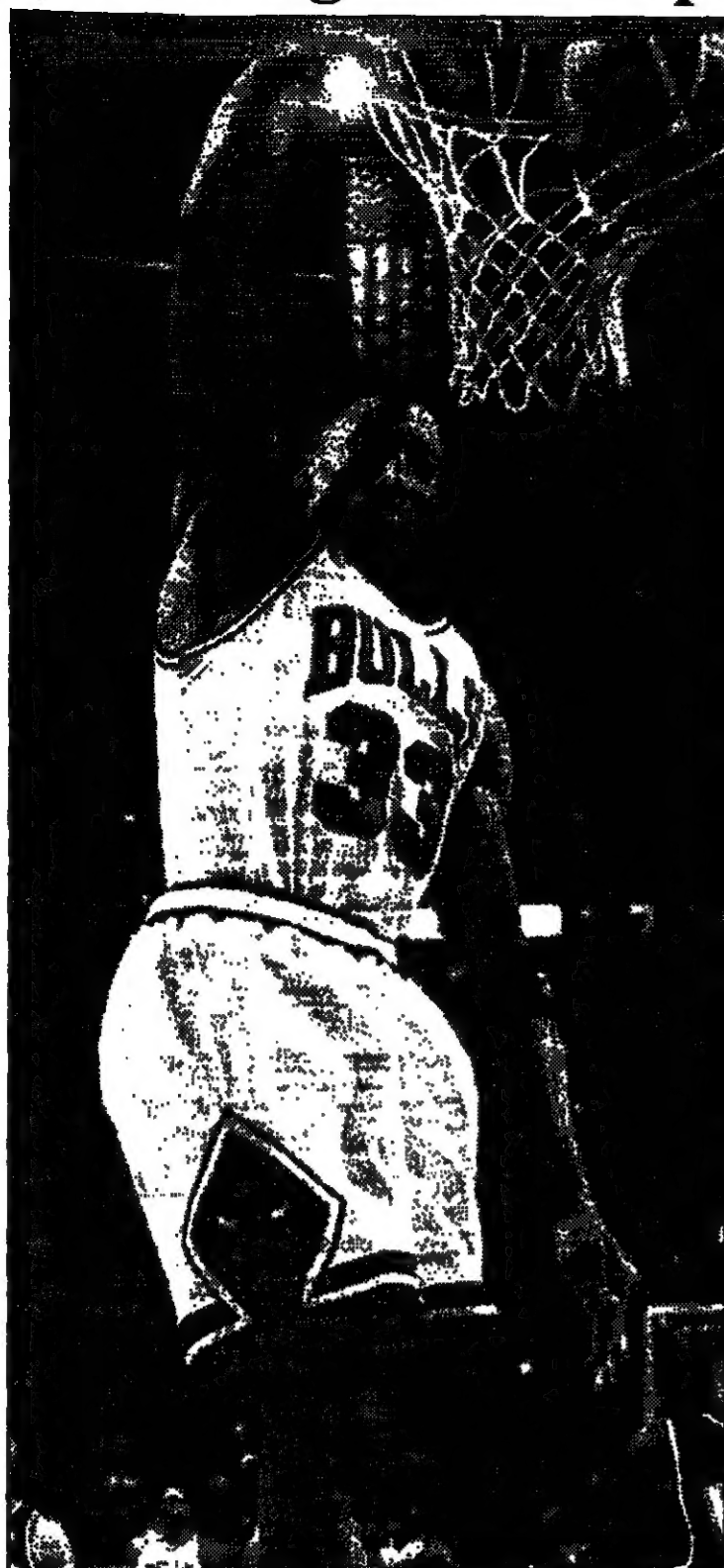
Pistons 106, Celtics 100 (OT)
Grant Hill had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists as visiting Detroit handed Boston its 12th straight loss, one shy of the Celtics' record.

It was Hill's sixth triple-double of the season.

Rick Fox's rebound basket with less than a second remaining in regulation put Boston up by two points, but Lindsey Hunter's layup off a halfcourt inbound pass from Hill sent the game into overtime.

Bulls 126, Kings 108
Michael Jordan scored 35 points and Scottie Pippen added 29 as host Chicago rebounded from a rare loss to beat Sacramento.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	42	18	.700	—
New York	42	18	.724	—
Orlando	30	25	.545	11
Washington	25	31	.446	16 1/2
New Jersey	17	39	.304	24 1/2
Philadelphia	15	41	.268	28 1/2
Boston	11	45	.196	33 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	50	7	.877	—
Detroit	42	14	.750	7 1/2
Atlanta	38	18	.679	11 1/2
Charlotte	36	22	.621	14 1/2
Cleveland	31	24	.564	18 1/2
Indiana	27	29	.482	22 1/2
Milwaukee	25	31	.446	24 1/2
Toronto	20	37	.351	30



DUMPS — Chicago's Scottie Pippen scores two of his 29 points vs. Sacramento on Friday. The Bulls won 126-108. (Reuters)

Jordan and Pippen had 23 points apiece in the first half, when the Bulls rolled to a 72-42 lead. Just one night earlier, Chicago managed only 70 points in an entire game and lost at Cleveland.

The Bulls, who shot 33 percent Thursday, hit at a 53 percent clip against Sacramento. After going 1-of-14 from 3-point range at Cleveland, Chicago was 10-of-17 Friday.

The victory, the Bulls' 20th consecutive at home, gave them a 50-7 record. Only one NBA team — last season's champion Bulls —

ever posted 50 wins faster, doing so after 56 games.

Sonics 96, Heat 95
Gary Payton scored 27 points and blocked Keith Askins' 3-point attempt with time running out.

The host Heat, struggling in its third game without injured center Alonzo Mourning, had a last chance to pull even, but John Crotty missed the first of two free throws with the Heat behind by three and 4.6 seconds left.

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	40	16	.714	—
Houston	37	20	.649	3 1/2
Minnesota	29	27	.518	11 1/2
Dallas	19	35	.352	24 1/2
Denver	17	41	.293	28 1/2
San Antonio	13	43	.232	32 1/2
Vancouver	11	48	.185	37 1/2
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	40	16	.714	—
L.A. Lakers	39	18	.684	1 1/2
Portland	30	28	.519	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	25	29	.463	14 1/2
Sacramento	25	32	.439	15 1/2
Golden State	21	34	.382	19 1/2
Phoenix	21	36	.368	19 1/2

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
L.A. Lakers 122, Washington 107
Cleveland 73, Chicago 70
Charlotte 106, Houston 95
Minnesota 107, Dallas 105 (2OT)
Utah 118, Toronto 114

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United moved four points ahead in the Premier League with a 3-1 victory yesterday over Coventry and Arsenal won 2-0 at Everton to leap over Newcastle into third place.

Manchester United, the defending league champions, went ahead 1-0 in the fourth minute on an own goal by Coventry's Gary Breen and then made it 2-0 when Andy Cole scored a minute later. Czech international Karel Poborsky added another in the 47th and Darren Huckerby got one back for Coventry in the 86th.

Manchester United has 57 points to 53 for Liverpool, which plays at home to Aston Villa today with a chance to move back within one point.

Arsenal, after back-to-back home losses last week to Manchester United and Wimbledon, got goals from Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp and Ian Wright for the 2-0 win at Everton. The victory gives the Gunners 51 points — three more than slumping Newcastle.

The Magpies — picked by some to win the league — lost 1-0 at home to Southampton on a goal early in the second half by England international Matthew Le Tissier.

Newcastle played its first game without Alan Shearer since the England international last week underwent his third groin surgery in 10 months.

Newcastle stays on 48 points in fourth.

In three other upsets on a day of many, relegation-struggling Nottingham Forest won 1-0 at Tottenham and Wimbledon — with only three losses in its previous 34 games — went down 3-1 at home to surging Leicester. Leicester played the match without American international goalkeeper Kasey Keller who is playing a World Cup qualifier against Jamaica.

Derby also defeated favored

PREMIER LEAGUE: Blackburn 1, Sunderland 0; Derby 3, Chelsea 2; Everton 0, Arsenal 2; Leeds 1, West Ham 0; Manchester United 3, Coventry 1; Newcastle 0, Southampton 1; Sheffield Wednesday 3, Middlesbrough 1; Tottenham 0, Nottingham Forest 1; Wimbledon 1, Leicester 3.

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford 1, Manchester City 3; Grimsby 1, Birmingham 2; Norwich 2, Bournemouth 0; Oxford United 1, Crystal Palace 0; Port Vale 1, Reading 0; Portsmouth 1, Sheffield United 1; Queens Park Rangers 0, Oldham 1; Southern 1, Barnsley 2; Swindon 1, Charlton 0; Wolverhampton 0, Ipswich 0.

SECOND DIVISION: Bournemouth 0, Shrewsbury 0; Bristol Rovers 0, Walsall 1; Crewe 3, Gillingham 2; Millwall 2, Wycombe 1; Notts County 1, Brentford 1; Peterborough 1, Chesterfield 1; Plymouth 0, Blackpool 1; Preston 3, Bury 0; Stockport 0, Rotherham 0; Watford 3, Bristol City 0; Wrexham 0, Burnley 0; York 1, Luton 1.

THIRD DIVISION: Carlisle 1, Lincoln 0; Darlington 2, Brighton 0; Fulham 1, Chester 1; Hartlepool 0, Southport 1; Hereford 1, Exeter 2; Hull 1, Northampton 1; Leyton Orient 0, Barnet 1; Mansfield 1, Cambridge United 0; Rochdale 2, Turfway 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Aberdeen 2, Rangers 2; Celtic 2, Hearts 0; Dundee United 2, Dunfermline 1; Hibernian 1, Motherwell 1; Raith vs. Kilmarnock (postponed).

"There is not the slightest doubt that Maradona is one of the greatest players of all time and that fact has to be weighed up against his record in other sectors."

"We have a criteria for excellence as a player and a criteria for general behavior. I am not going to pre-empt his inclusion one way or another, and there are many aspects of his career which, I am sure, will feature prominently in the Hall of Champions."

Asked why an American company was behind the creation of the Hall of Champions, ISEC's chief executive Bob Brandon said: "Because we are neutral. We have had Halls of Fame in America for many years, and understand the principle of them. But this one is different. This will

have an entertainment factor involving interactive exhibits, design, and other features that more traditional projects of this type lack."

The planned cost is \$10 a ticket and while the operation is geared to making a profit, a share of those profits will be used to assist soccer players in need. Five per cent of all profits will go to FIFA, who, after their operating costs, will donate its share of profits to its SOS Children's Charity which helps more than a quarter-of-a-million needy and deprived children a year in 125 countries.

The Hall is expected to open in the spring of 1998, shortly before the start of the World Cup finals in France.

Asked if he might be pushing his luck after cheating death once, he said: "I don't think luck comes into it. The fact I survived myself is really down to thinking the whole situation through." He rejected critics who attacked the high cost of his rescue: "A great deal of people have come up to me in the street in Australia and congratulated me. If it cost a few bob, it has uplifted the hearts of people in Australia." Defending the sport that he adores, Bullimore said: "The spirit of challenge mustn't be dampened by making everything safe."

But the ordeal has not deterred him. "I am hoping to compete in the Europe race this summer. My aim and objective is possibly to do the Europe race, that is a crewed race," he said. Then he will challenge for another round-the-world race next year.

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Betar ends Mac TA's championship chase

By ORI LEWIS and DEREK FATTAL

The central match in the weekend's 20th round of National League action was marked by a controversial refereeing decision by Ya'akov Ben-Hamo that significantly boosted Betar Jerusalem's drive for the title crown, while ending Maccabi Tel Aviv's chances of retaining the championship it won last season.

Eli Ohana's 66th-minute dive in the Maccabi penalty area — witnessed by a sellout crowd of 13,000 at Teddy Stadium — was more suited to the stage than a soccer field.

In all fairness to Ben-Hamo, the referee's angle of the incident was obscured by Tel Aviv goalkeeper Alexander Obarov. Nevertheless, the resulting penalty decided the 1-0 match, and enabled the league leaders to increase their lead to five points at the top over Hapoel Petah Tikva, which lost valuable ground to Betar after being held to a goalless draw at home to Hapoel Haifa.

Maccabi Haifa's campaign received another blow with a 3-1 defeat at Kiryat Eliezer by Maccabi Petah Tikva that leaves the once-proud "green wave" bobbing about in the lower half of the table just ahead of the relegation fighters.

At the bottom of the pack Hapoel Tel Aviv suffered its eighth consecutive defeat with 3-0 home loss against Hapoel Beersheba. The Tel Avivs have not won since the sixth round, and the position of coach Zvika Rosen now looks extremely shaky.

The southerners meanwhile are now looking to be the most potent challenger to Betar with five wins from their last seven outings.

Betar Jerusalem 1

Maccabi Tel Aviv 0

On balance, Betar played well enough to earn all three points from the game. Nevertheless the manner in which the winning goal came will remain a matter of dispute all season long between Betar and

Maccabi fans, which is a shame as the result killed off any remaining hopes that the Tel Avivians had of retaining their title crown.

Although the match never lacked incident, the soccer on the field failed to live up to the pre-match hype. Betar continued to lack the assurance that was the hallmark of their play before the winter break.

Despite having the majority of possession, the Jerusalemites allowed Maccabi to create three good early chances as the Tel Aviv side moved effortlessly through the home defense. Betar's reluctance to throw men forward in support of Eli Ohana and Stefan Saloi suggested that coach Eli Cohen was more intent on avoiding defeat than pleasing the fervent Jerusalem crowd.

The tide began to turn when Jerusalem's Itzik Zohar angled a penetrating ball through the area that was almost turned in by Ohana. This move was immediately followed by two appalling defensive errors by Maccabi's central defenders that enabled David Amalek and then Ohana to threaten Alexander Obarov's goal.

The Jerusalemites' best move of the opening half came in the 24th minute when Saloi streaked down the right wing, turned the ball infield to Ohana, whose first touch released it straight to Amalek on the left of the area.

The national squad's left back is blessed with a wicked shot, but this time — to the relief of the 2,000-odd Maccabi fans present — the finish lacked aim.

Maccabi's Nir Klinger was then put through at the other end but a superbly timed tackle by Jerusalem center-half Ehud Cahila ended the danger. From then on Zohar began to impose his authority in midfield, although another good opportunity was to come Tel Aviv's way in the 43rd minute when Ohana lost possession in defense and was almost punished by Eli Driks.

The second period continued in

similar fashion with Betar having most of the ball but failing to seriously worry Obarov.

In the 66th minute, Ohana raced after a pass that took him deep into the left side of Obarov's area. The tall Russian goalkeeper challenged and although Ohana clearly appeared to have dived, the referee Ya'akov Ben-Hamo had little hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Yossi Abuksis fired his penalty kick to the right of Obarov, who managed to get a hand to the ball, but his touch was not sufficient to prevent Betar's crucial goal. After the kick-off, Itstfan Pishon came close to increasing the lead from a well-worked free kick.

Hapoel PT 0

Hapoel Haifa 0

Petah Tikva's hopes of catching Betar Jerusalem, at least temporarily — a win would have put them level on points with the leaders for about an hour — came to nothing, as the host side failed dismally to show the winning spirit which has seen it occupy second place in the league for much of the season.

There were few opportunities to score as the sides played out a tame goalless draw. Coach Nir Levine's tactics of leaving out the creative Maron Hassan from Petah Tikva's starting lineup was called into question by the fans.

Hapoel Beersheba 3

Hapoel Tel Aviv 0

Tel Aviv kept in the hunt for the points until visitors Beersheba scored the first goal in the 29th minute, when Duda Heffer struck off a cross from Giovanni Rosso.

At that point it was all downhill for the hosts, who were hosting this radius match as punishment at Kfar Sava. Beersheba has had much success lately, and some 1,000 of their supporters made the journey of over 100km. from the Negev, compared to a similar number, who traveled a tenth of the distance from their homes in Tel Aviv, just north of Kfar Sava. But the short journey home for the Tel Avivians could

not have been pleasant, as Beersheba continued to pile on the agony.

Shai Holtzman added Beersheba's second goal just two minutes after the first, and Liron Bassis sealed the scoreline in the 73rd minute. Throughout the match, Beersheba had many opportunities to score as Tel Aviv, which has not scored a goal in its last five league outings, collapsed.

Relegation now looks almost certain for the Arab sector side, as it trails the rest of the National League by five points. Coach Zvi Rosen was last night said to be considering his position at the club.

Amazingly, the hosts' 50-km. radius match was played at the closest National League ground to Tel Aviv, after the police refused to allow the match to go ahead in Lod, where crowd segregation is not possible. IFA Chief Executive

Ya'akov Erel then decided to let the match go ahead in Kfar Sava. Tel Aviv's home ground is in Netanya as their own municipal facility and that of Umm El Fahm's are not considered fit for National League play.

Maccabi Haifa 1

Maccabi Petah Tikva 3

Haifa's miserable run continues and it suffered its third loss in its last five league appearances. The Petah Tikvians stunned the Haifaite, who have clearly not recovered after the departure of Eyal Berkowitz and Haim Revivo. Petah Tikva's blitz began in the 17th minute when Alon Ophir put the visitors ahead, much to the dismay of the Kiryat Eliezer faithful, who were becoming ever more unfaithful by the minute.

Two minutes later, Guy Yitzhak added Petah Tikva's second, and a minute before the break Yitzhak

made it 3-0 to the visitors. Haifa and coach Giora Spiegel have come in for much criticism after its disastrous performances this season. No surprisingly, many of the home fans couldn't even be bothered to hurl abuse at their own side, they just got up and went home.

Hezi Shirazi's late goal for Haifa six minutes from the end was anything but a consolation for the home fans.

Bnei Yehuda 0

Maccabi Herzliya 1

Alex Barmacher pounced to head in the winner for Herzliya five minutes from the end of a generally slow and uninteresting match at the Hatikva Quarter.

Zefirum Holon 1

Hapoel Jerusalem 1

Holon tried everything to gain an all-important win and three pre-

cious points in Friday's encounter with the league's surprise packet, Hapoel Jerusalem.

The hosts managed to take the lead through Yossi Balaz in the 53rd minute and even upped the pace of the match in the subsequent minutes. But Jerusalem's tenacity paid off and it gained a deserved draw when Moti Ohayon headed in the equalizing goal on 70 minutes after he moved in to meet a high ball from a free kick.

Hapoel Kfar Sava 2

Hapoel Beit She'an 0

It was all one-way traffic in this match on Friday as Kfar Sava continued to consolidate its mid-table position. Ofer Cohen hit a close-range half volley in the 56th minute and Yaniv Abargil scored the hosts' second from the same close position in front of goal with 14 minutes remaining.

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Team	P	W	D
Betar Jerusalem	20	15	4
Hapoel Petah Tikva	20	13	5
Hapoel Beersheba	20	14	1
Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	10	5
Maccabi Petah Tikva	20	10	4
Bnei Yehuda	20	8	6
Hapoel Kfar Sava	20	8	5
Hapoel Haifa	20	8	4
Hapoel Jerusalem	20	7	3
Maccabi Haifa	20	6	8
Hapoel Beit She'an	20	6	4
Maccabi Herzliya	20	6	2
Ironi Rishon LeZion	20	5	5
Zefirum Holon	20	3	8
Hapoel Tel Aviv	20	3	7
Hapoel Tel Aviv	20	3	1

SECOND DIVISION			
Team	P	W	D
Maccabi Acre	20	14	2
Ness Ziona	20	10	6
Hapoel Ramat Gan	20	9	6
Hapoel Ashdod	20	8	6
Maccabi Jaffa	20	7	7
Maccabi Kfar Kana	20	6	8
Maccabi Netanya	20	6	7
Maccabi Yarmouk	20	6	8
Hapoel Hadera	20	5	8
Betar Tel Aviv	20	4	8
Ironi Ashdod	20	3	8
Hapoel Ramat Gan	20	3	8
Hapoel Bat Yam	20	3	8
Hapoel Kfar Yona	20	3	8
Hapoel Ashkelon	20	3	8
Hapoel Kiryat Gat	20	3	8
Betar Tel Aviv	20	3	8
Hapoel Ashdod	20	3	8
Ness Ziona	20	3	8
Maccabi Acre	20	3	8
Hapoel K Shmona	20	3	8
Maccabi Yarmouk	20	3	8
Hapoel Hadera	20	3	8

This week's winning Sportsline line: XXXX2221111XXXXX
This week's winning Toto Plus line: XXXX2221111XXXXX
Winning Tototo numbers: 1, 2, 13, 17, 25, 28.

France stuns England in Five Nations

LONDON (Reuters) — France pulled off one of the great escapes in Twickenham history yesterday to beat England 23-20 and wrap one arm around this season's Five Nations trophy.

Trailing 20-6 heading into the last 20 minutes against an England side looking totally in control, the French dug deep into their repertoire to conjure two converted tries and a final match-clinching penalty from hero-of-the-hour Christophe Lamaison.

The Brave center scored 15 points in total, including a try, to ensure his side's first win at Twickenham since 1987 and give the team an outstanding opportunity to clinch a grand slam at home to Scotland in two weeks.

England, which had blown apart the Scots and Irish in the last 20 minutes of its previous matches, must now travel to Cardiff to face Wales with its world suddenly turned upside down.

Coach Jack Rowell and ex-captain Will Carling had hinted

beforehand this could be their final match at Twickenham in their respective roles, but neither will surely want to depart on such a disappointing note.

"It was the worst 20 minutes of my life," admitted Rowell. "In the first half we didn't let them play, but it's all about mental and physical stamina."

Even the French, which performed a joyous lap of honor pursued by their supporters, could not quite believe what had happened.

Until Laurent Lellamaud successfully pursued a chip by Alain Penaud in the 62nd minute to drag their side back into contention, there seemed no way England would let their hard-earned advantage slip.

On the sort of gusty afternoon which both goalkeepers must have dreaded, England fly-half Paul Grayson had confounded everyone by landing three well-struck penalties inside the first 11 minutes to give his side a 9-3 lead after Lamaison had opened the

scoring in the third minute.

The visitors, playing with the wind, would have wished for at least a 10-point cushion at the interval, but they found it almost impossible to force their way into dangerous territory.

Strong English defense, a shortage of line-out ball and the whistle of Scottish referee Jim Fleming caused an increasing amount of Gallic frustration and worse was to follow just before half-time.

Fleming allowed play to continue following a French offside and Lawrence Dallaglio burst on to a short pass from Phil de Glanville to storm 35 meters to the line for his third international try.

A 14-6 lead was extended further by a drop-goal and a fourth penalty from Grayson early in the second-half, leaving France with the rugby equivalent of scaling the Eiger. Somehow they managed it without captain Abdel Benazzi, forced out through injury with France still trailing 20-13 and Lamaison, in particular, will not have to buy a drink for years.

He took Penaud's short pass superbly to dummy his way over in the 70th minute and kept his nerve to slot both the conversion and the all-important penalty, awarded against Dallaglio in a ruck close to the English line.

England flung itself desperately into attack, but the French held firm and should now clinch their first grand slam for a decade.

Scotland 38, Ireland 10
Scotland produced a second-half storm to hammer Ireland in its Five Nations rugby match at Murrayfield.

Both teams struggled to deal with a swirling wind early on and the score was locked at 7-7 at half-time, but the Scots took control after the break and ran in four more tries to post their biggest win in the fixture.

Ireland opened the scoring with

a try in the 22nd minute following a sharp break by captain Jim Staples, who kicked ahead for winger Denis Hickey to collect and touch down.

David Humphreys converted but Staples took no further part in the match after pulling a hamstring as he chased his kick.

Scotland leveled in the 31st minute when Craig Chalmers fed former rugby league center Alan Tait who crossed from close range and Rowen Shepherd landed the first of his five conversions.

The home side took control after the break and driving tries by No. 8 Peter Walton and lock Dottie Weir broke the Irish resistance. Ireland suffered a double blow in the second period when it lost two more backs, center Kurt McQuilkin and scrumhalf Brian O'Meara, through injury.

Tait, last capped in 1988, revealed in the new-found space and was instrumental in the last two tries which both came from well-created backline moves finished off by Gregor Townsend and Tony Sanger.

"We're overjoyed," said Scotland coach Arthur Hastie. "We always felt capable of this."

Victorious captain Rob Wainwright said the injury to Staples was "the potential turning point in the game" but Ireland coach Brian Ashton saw it differently.

"The turning point was us not scoring two tries in the first 15 minutes," said Ashton, who this week committed himself to Ireland until 2003.

"There was no excuse for today's performance. In the second half I was bitterly disappointed," he continued.

	GP	W	D	L	PF	FA	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	107	42	6
England	3	1	0	2	81	72	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	81	72	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	81	72	2
Ireland	4	1	0	3	57	141	2

Club Eilat tennis final today

Andrew Ilie from Austria will play the US's Jim Thomas in the final of the third leg of the Club Hotel Eilat Satellite in Jaffa today. In the semifinals yesterday, Ilie beat Dimitri Poliakov from the Ukraine 6-1, 6-4; and Thomas beat Jean Francois Bachelot from France 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. In the quarter-finals on Friday, Ilie beat Nir Welgreen 6-1, 7-6; Thomas beat Noam Behr 7-6, 7-6 and Bachelot topped Yoni Erlich 6-3, 6-3.

Heather Chait

NHL SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	T	Pts	Team	W	T	Pts
Philadelphia	36	17	91	Dallas	36	22	80
New Jersey	31	18	74	Detroit	30	19	72
Florida	29	15	73	St. Louis	28	8	64
N.Y. Rangers	28	9	65	Phoenix	28	31	60
Tampa Bay	24	30	56	Chicago	25	29	59
Washington	24	31	55	Toronto	23	37	48
N.Y. Islanders	20	32	50	Pacific Division			
Buffalo	32	20	74	Colorado	36	18	84
Pittsburgh	31	25	67	Edmonton	29	29	75
Hartford	24	29	57	Calgary	26	31	59
Montreal	23	30	57	Anaheim	26	30	58
Ottawa	21	28	55	Vancouver	28	32	56
Boston	21	33	50	Los Angeles	23	33	51
				San Jose	22	33	51

FRIDAY'S RESULTS: San Jose 3, Hartford 2; Ottawa 4, N.Y. Islanders 1; Anaheim 4, Washington 1; Calgary 3, Montreal 2.
THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2; New Jersey 4, Buffalo 1; Detroit 4, Pittsburgh 1; Florida 3, St. Louis 2 (OT); Dallas 6, Colorado 2; Vancouver 6, Phoenix 2; Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 3.



BLOCKING PROGRESS — England right wing Jon Sleightholme (l) gets in the way of France full back Jean-Luc Sadourny.

WHERE TO GO

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Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thurs. 11 a.m. from Ben-Zion Administration Bldg., Sherman Administration Bldg., Buses 48, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5882818.
HADASSAH, Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows, Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV
Museums

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Sunday, March 2
EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A. 3, Avigdor, 870-8680; Belsam, Oshin e-Din, 827-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 828-2058.
Tel Aviv: Shalom Hamelech, 78 Shalom Hamelech, 524-6461; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 841-3730; Tili 3 a.m. Monday: Pharma Daf Jebotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040.
Tel. midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 841-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 886-0115.
Ramatana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Golan, 198 Ahuva, Ramatana, 744-9702.
Netanya: Clal Pharm, 80 Binyamin, 833-8091.
Haifa: Balfour, 1 Massada, 882-2289.
Kiryat area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 152 Derech Akai, Kiryat Blauk, 876-7818.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazi, 6 Maskit (on: Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407, Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'et Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
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Netanya: Laniado.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andreas Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucien Freud: selection of works. Tavi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israel art.
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Integrated Technology	11.125	-0.125
Central Computer Sys	11.125	-0.125

NASDAQ

Accort Software	4.125	-0.125
A.G. Associates	-1.125	-0.125
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INTERNATIONAL
SHARES

LAST CHANGE

NEW YORK

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow sets third
straight fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell Friday for the third straight session, weighed down again by fears the Federal Reserve may soon raise interest rates to keep inflation in check.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 47.33 points to close at 6,877.74, giving

the blue-chip barometer a three-session decline of about 160 points.

Broader measures also fell, although the Nasdaq composite index, hard hit by two weeks of profit-taking in the technology sector, suffered more marginal losses as several computer-industry bellwethers started to recover.

Stocks have been retreating with bonds since Wednesday, when Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan warned sternly that the stock market's stunning advance poses an inflationary risk. Greenspan, in a report to Congress, cautioned that the central bank may increase interest rates even before a measurable increase in inflation is evident.

The concerns over Fed rate hike continued today after another Fed official issued some more cautionary comments. Higher interest rates hurt stocks by raising corporate borrowing costs and slowing consumer spending.

Friday's economic readings offered a mixed bag of clues on inflation. In another indication that economic activity may be too brisk to keep inflationary pressures under control, the National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing single-family homes

unexpectedly edged up 2.1 percent in January.

But a survey of Midwestern factor executives, meanwhile, suggested that manufacturing activity hasn't accelerated as much as expected in that key region during February. And in another report, the Commerce Department said the US economy grew at a 3.9% annual rate in the final three months of 1996, slower than government economists first estimated.

Bond prices steadied after a two-day pullback, leaving the yield on the 30-year Treasury — a barometer for long-term borrowing costs — unchanged at 6.80%.

The Dow's weakest issues were J.P. Morgan, General Electric, and Chevron.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 4-to-3 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,061 up, 1,450 down and 837 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 508.27 million shares versus 464.67 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list fell 4.25 at 790.82, and the NYSE composite index fell 2.38 at 415.51.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 3.66 to 1,309.00, and the American Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.93 to 394.24.

WALL STREET WEEK

Mr. Cool says
'Cool it'

NEW YORK (AP) — You didn't need a degree in high finance to get Alan Greenspan's point this time: "Cool it, or I'll cool it for you."

But who, specifically, was the Federal Reserve chairman addressing in last week's public display of dismay at the inflationary risks of the US stock market's meteoric climb? Did he really mean for the individual investor to take some course of action to help achieve some personal or common good?

For the moment, it seems that big investors — the major players who control billions of dollars in mutual funds assets and, therefore, the market's course — are heeding the stern decree by Greenspan. After a couple of nail-biting slides that day, the stock market settled into a graceful slope of profit-taking on January's tremendous advance.

Yes, Greenspan tailored his words as carefully as ever in his report to Congress. But for a man so noted for cryptic commentary, Wednesday's remarks were the equivalent of dragging a barrel onto the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, climbing up, and screaming at the top of his lungs.

"A man known for his subtlety came with both guns blazing," said Larry Wachtel, a market analyst at Prudential Securities. Unlike December's now-famous allusion to the "irrational exuberance" of investors, which only briefly rattled the markets, the latest warning from the Fed chairman was quite explicit in asserting that the central bank would inter-

vene with higher interest rates if it perceives an inflationary threat. "We cannot rule out a situation in which a pre-emptive policy tightening may become appropriate before any sign of actual inflation becomes evident," Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee.

Mogrover, he made it clear that investors aren't mere spectators in this game. "History demonstrates that participants in financial markets are susceptible to waves of optimism, which can in turn foster a general process of asset-price inflation that can feed through into markets for goods and services. Excessive optimism sows the seeds of its own reversal in the form of imbalances that tend to grow over time." Loud and clear on the problems, but very short on solutions.

That leaves individual investors with the task of deciding what, if anything, they're supposed to do now. "Long-term investors shouldn't try to time these short-term market moves," said Robert Freedman, chief investment officer for the John Hancock Funds in Boston. "Nothing has really dramatically changed in this market. The economy is still humming along, and there's no sign of inflation. Greenspan is just trying to put some caution in the market, which is reasonable." Although some people might be inspired to move some or all of their money to the sidelines, others might simply look for their allocation of investment dollars to stocks or do nothing at all, fearing they'll miss out on another run to new highs.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Wall Street decline
pressures Europe

LONDON (Reuters) — UK shares dropped on Friday as a fresh bout of jitters hit Wall Street and gilts dropped sharply amid profit-taking and political jitters after a local election defeat for the ruling Conservative party. The FTSE 100 index closed 30.9 points lower at 4,308.3 a fall of 28.5 since last Friday.

FRANKFURT — German DAX index ends down 0.5 percent from Thursday's records after a bout of profit-taking sparked by

overnight losses on Japan and Wall Street and talk of an EMU delay. Dealers see outlook stable at lower levels, but still see potential for more gains next week. The DAX index ended down 17.08 points at 3,259.64 up 75.55 on the week. In post-bourse trade the index fell 11.54 to 3,261.04.

TOKYO — Tokyo's main stock index closed down 2.44% on Friday due to profit-taking in some export-oriented blue chips after the yen gained against the dollar in the afternoon session. The Nikkei 225 average was in negative territory for the fourth day and ended down 44.56 points at 18,557.00 a drop of 477.54 since last week.

PARIS — French shares closed with a sharp loss, affected by a further 55 point fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Index on Wall Street and profit-taking on the expiry of February futures. The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 21.85 points or 0.83% at 2,607.55.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed in negative territory but above the day's lows. The All-Share fell 18.57 points to close at 3,513.56 a gain of 19.62 on the week.

CURRENCY REPORT

Japanese push dollar lower against yen

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar weakened against the Japanese yen again Friday on concerns about Japanese investors pulling funds out of foreign-denominated investments and buying yen.

The dollar strengthened against the German mark after German officials denied a rumor that they were going to ask for a delay in Europe's planned 1999 monetary union. The rumor had sent the mark higher in Europe, since the strong currency would be blended with other, weaker currencies once the union becomes a fact.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 120.22 Japanese yen, down from 120.69 yen on

Thursday. A dollar bought 1.6903 German marks, up from 1.6875.

The main story seemed to be strength in the yen against the dollar and other currencies, including the mark. Big Japanese investors appeared to be taking funds back into Japan to put their financial books in order for the end of the fiscal year on March 31.

"For the most part, it seems to be out of Europe to yen and not (out of) the dollar," said Lisa Fustrom, a currency analyst at Smith Barney. "But still, the yen's firmer against the dollar."

Another factor prompting Japanese investors to

pull money back home has been weakness this week in the US stock and bond markets. They were rattled by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's warning that caution may be warranted with stock prices having climbed so high.

The repatriation of Japanese funds also helped the dollar strengthen against the mark, since investments were being pulled out of Germany and other European nations.

That all followed denials by the German Finance Ministry and the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, of the rumor about a delay of the monetary union.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Foreign financial data courtesy of
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INVESTMENTS

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NEWS

in brief

Family, friends mark Rabin's 75th birthday

Friends and family of the late Yitzhak Rabin marked his 75th birthday Friday at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv, the site of his assassination.

The memorial for Rabin was covered with flowers, and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, speaking at the site, attacked those who opposed what he termed the path to peace led by Rabin, who shouted "traitor" and "murderer" at him, and today are doing what he dreamed about doing. "We must tell our youth - cry for him, but never give up hope. His dream will still emerge victorious."

Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin Pelosoff, said that a prayer would go up from the square asking that her father's blood not have been shed in vain. *Itim*

Brit performed at Kotel

A rare if not unprecedented event took place at the Western Wall yesterday, when a circumcision was performed right in front of the Wall, underneath Wilson's Arch.

Britot are not allowed to be performed at the Wall, and none of the old-timers could remember it ever occurring there. "Six mohalim turned me down," said Haim Tavens, the father of the eight-day-old. *Elit Wohlgelemer*

Fuel prices down

Fuel prices were lowered at midnight, in line with the general reductions in price in the world market. The price of 96 octane gas dropped 3 percent to NIS 3.19, but there was no change in unleaded gas prices, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced.

Other changes affecting gas companies purchasing from refineries include: fuel for civilian aircraft down 8%; heating oil reduced by 7.1%; transportation fuel lowered 6.8%; light crude oil down 4.25%; heavy crude oil for industry and Israel Electric Corporation decreased 2.9%; bitumen for road-laying was reduced by 2.8%. *David Harris*

Man remanded for running wife off the road

A 48-year-old Ramat Gan man was remanded Friday for five days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, on suspicion he tried to ram his estranged wife's car, which contained their daughters.

As a result, his wife lost control of her car and crashed into an electricity pylon and was lightly injured. The couple is in the process of divorcing.

The court was told that the man had threatened his wife in the past, and has a previous conviction for violent behavior. *Itim*

Netanya man arrested for child molesting

The Netanya Magistrate's Court ordered a local man remanded on Friday for four days on suspicion of molesting young children in the city.

The man is suspected of a series of sexual attacks on two girls, one of them two-and-a-half years old, and another child. The children all were treated at the city's Laniado Hospital. *Itim*

Winning cards

In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the eight of hearts, the ten of diamonds and the nine of clubs.



Walk for water

Robert Grossman gives Sue Abenson a hand on their hike through the Ramon Crater on Thursday as part of the fourth annual Walk for Water Campaign. The Jewish National Fund of Great Britain and Ireland sponsored the week-long event to raise funds to develop the Negev and build a 4 million cubic meter reservoir in the Besor region. *(Joe Malachuk)*

WEATHER		Golden
		8-17
Halla	8-20	
Tiberias	12-23	
Afula	8-21	
Samarita	8-19	
Tel Aviv	10-20	
Jerusalem	9-17	
Beersheva	11-20	
Dead Sea	14-25	
Elot	12-28	

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	PRECIP.
Amsterdam	08	43	11	52
Berlin	07	46	10	50
Bombay	19	28	24	44
Calcutta	08	46	10	50
Chicago	03	37	08	43
Frankfurt	04	38	13	53
Garmers	02	39	13	55
Helsinki	03	32	01	34
Hong Kong	19	28	24	44
London	12	54	24	75
Los Angeles	09	48	10	50
Moscow	04	33	03	27
New York	08	37	11	52
Paris	09	40	10	50
Rome	08	37	10	50
Stockholm	02	36	08	37
Tokyo	10	20	27	81
Toronto	-01	30	01	34
Zurich	08	37	11	52

Zvilli: We must act on Bar-On

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli yesterday came out against the party's silence vis-a-vis the Bar-On affair, calling on the party leadership to take a strong stand against the affair and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's involvement in it.

In a letter to party chairman MK Shimon Peres and MKs Dalia Itzik and Shlomo Ben-Ami, heads of the response and information teams, Zvilli blasted the cabinet ministers' attacks on the police for leaking details of the investigation, calling them a "cynical attempt to divert public opinion

from the developments in the Bar-On affair. Instead of commenting on the source of the 'stench' - which is the Prime Minister's Office and his responsibility - the ministers are throwing the blame onto the police and the media."

He lashed out at "the despicable attempt" to sow dispute between the police and state attorney "with the intention of undermining their credibility, defaming them and accusing them of politically biased motives."

Zvilli charged, "the prime minister and his people are conducting a planned and orchestrated media campaign with the sole aim of removing all responsibility for the affair from Netanyahu."

Zvilli stressed that from the public point of view, the developments so far and the public statements of the those involved "indicate that the prime minister enabled interested parties, who are facing criminal charges and standing criminal trial, to propose candidates for attorney-general, to receive early information or intervene in some way in the appointment. This clearly proves the prime minister's personal and direct responsibility for acts which have no place in a democratic regime."

Zvilli said the public interprets the party's silence as fear of confrontation with Shas MK Arye Deri, or even as giving legitimacy to "norms and work methods which

were accepted in every government."

Last week Peres called on party MKs to restrain themselves until the investigation is over.

Leadership candidate MK Ehud Barak, however, said the affair is looking day by day more like "a thick soup of unprecedented political corruption. The picture emerging before our eyes is horrifying."

"Even if a small part of what has been reported so far is true, it will be very difficult for the government to continue in office. It is also very difficult for a prime minister to function under the pressure of criminal investigation on the one hand and burning affairs of state on the other."

Swiss banks open records to New York regulators

NEW YORK (AP) - Gov. George Pataki announced last week that the Swiss Federal Banking Commission has agreed to give New York bank regulators extensive access to World War II-era records stored in Switzerland.

The agreement, he said in a statement prepared for a news conference, means that Swiss banks will allow New York bank regulators to review confidential customer information about unclaimed, wartime assets held in their New York offices.

"This is an extraordinary diplomatic accomplishment that will bring down the wall of secrecy that has kept the truth hidden for far too long," Pataki said in the statement.

The agreement was worked out by New York's banking superintendent, Neil Levin, who traveled to Switzerland last month and

met with executives of that nation's three major banks: Swiss Bank Corp., Union Bank of Switzerland and Credit Suisse.

Swiss Bank and Credit Suisse opened New York offices in 1939 and 1940, respectively. Union Bank opened a New York branch in 1946.

"The accord marks the first time a governmental agency outside of Switzerland will be allowed to review Holocaust-related documents from this era on their soil," the governor said. "More important, it is a major step toward reaching our final goal: returning any and all unaccounted or stolen assets to Holocaust survivors or their heirs whether they live in New York or anywhere else in the world."

Levin's investigation is believed to be the first review by a regulatory body in the US of

Swiss banking practices during World War II.

The agency, which licenses and charters banks in the state and ensures their safe and sound conduct, has the authority to close a bank if it doesn't comply with state banking law. Under its purview are some 200 foreign bank branches and agencies.

During the war, Switzerland, fearful that it would be overrun by Nazi Germany, transferred all of its movable assets to New York City.

On Wednesday, in an agreement hailed as a turning point in stormy Swiss-Jewish relations, Switzerland formally opened a humanitarian fund to aid destitute Holocaust victims and their families. The \$71 million account will be open to aid requests from individuals or organizations on their behalf.

Dreyfus Internet sale nets \$178,000

PARIS (AP) - An Internet auction of letters, drawings, newspaper clippings and other documents from France's infamous Dreyfus Affair fetched more than 1 million francs (\$178,000), the auctioneer's spokeswoman said Friday.

The auction included bids received in person at the Drouot central Paris auction house, by telephone and from some of the 10,000 people following over the Net, spokeswoman Angélique Dubost said.

The sale featured 130 lots of items related to one of the biggest scandals in French history. Alfred Dreyfus was a young Jewish army captain falsely accused of treason in 1894. Framed by the military and thrown into solitary confinement on Devil's Island, he was eventually declared innocent and freed. The Dreyfus trial stirred antisemitic sentiments that polarized France.

A copy of the *L'Aurore* newspaper that published novelist Emile Zola's famed "J'accuse," a denunciation of the military's framing of Dreyfus, fetched \$2,900.

Weinroth hires, then fires PR man

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Public relations adviser Menahem Sheizaf, who was hired last Wednesday by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's defense attorney, Ya'acov Weinroth, was fired a few hours later because of opposition to the idea from within the Prime Minister's Office.

Weinroth contracted Sheizaf, who specializes in political and legal affairs, to represent Netanyahu in the Bar-On affair. Sheizaf was to serve as liaison between the prime minister and the media.

Sheizaf has represented among others, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, and President Ezer Weizman.

Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, reportedly balked at Sheizaf's appointment, which he regarded as competition to himself, and his strong objection led to Sheizaf's dismissal.

Bazak yesterday denied having anything to do with Sheizaf's firing. "It seems Weinroth was working with someone who did public relations for him, or

helped him, without the prime minister's knowledge."

"The prime minister made it clear that he does not need a public relations man."

"We are working together in the affair. There was a need to hire an attorney to represent him in his private business, but as far as public relations go, he doesn't need it," Bazak said.

Ramon: I may be in race for prime minister in 2000

By URIEL NEILMAN

Political roles were somewhat reversed on Friday when Likud MK Michael Kleiner and Labor MK Haim Ramon spoke Friday at the Zionist Organization House in Tel Aviv at a *Jerusalem Post*-sponsored forum entitled "Where do we go from here?"

Ramon expressed his support for the recent policies of the Likud-led government, while the Likud MK found himself in the opposition.

Ramon asserted that in light of the Oslo implementation of the Oslo accords, "the Likud is no longer the Likud."

He said that the prime minister's actions demonstrate that "there is no other way to peace but the Oslo agreement," noting that "if Binyamin Netanyahu will implement the peace process of the Labor party, I will vote for him in the next Knesset."



From left, MK Michael Kleiner, moderator David Mitnick and MK Haim Ramon. *(Gerald Suss)*

Nevertheless, Ramon hinted that he might run for prime minister himself when the elections

of 2000 come around. "I believe near the year 2000, things will be changed, and if I'm right, I

will find myself in the race near the election of that year," he said, maintaining that electing a

candidate in the Labor party primaries this June for the 2000 elections "has to do with astrology, and not politics."

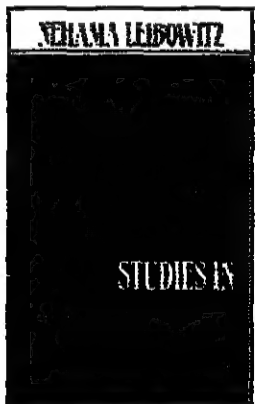
Kleiner, who opposes his own government's implementation of the Oslo accords on the grounds that the Palestinians continually violate the agreement, and that the accords will only lead to further bloodshed, lamented the loss of "the fighting spirit" he claims Israel's pioneers once had. He insisted that "peace with Syria is much more important than [with] the mobs of Palestinians and Arafat who at the end of the day only understand force."

"Appeasement will never work," declared Kleiner, responding to applause from the enthusiastic audience. "Tomorrow, the [Palestinians] will swallow the Jordan and become hostile." "According to Israeli Arabs would side with a Palestinian-controlled Jordan,

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